

VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

MAGAZINE

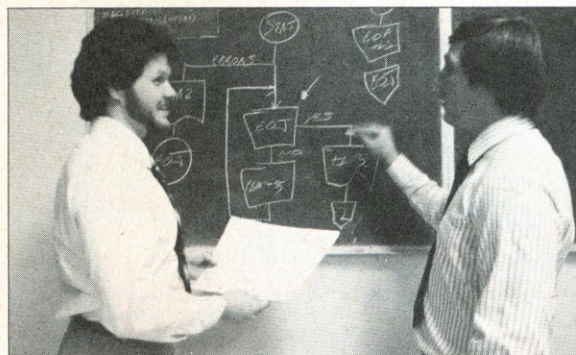
MARCH • 1983

GET A FAIR SHAKE, COUNT ON VFW FOR SERVICE



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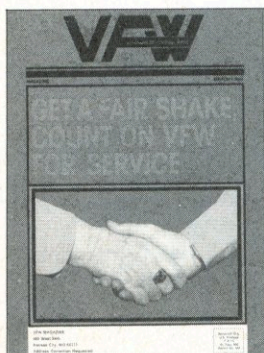
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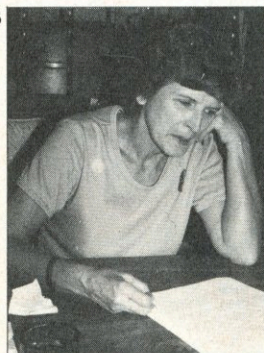
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Cover

This month's cover highlights the work being done by the VFW National Veterans Service to assist all veterans with claims, jobs, entitlements and many other problems. Susan Fiorello designed the cover and Warren C. Maus took the original photo. The story of VFW service begins on page 20.



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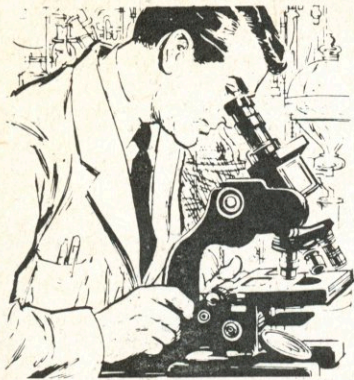
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MEDICAL FILE

concise up-to-date information
on effective treatment of
common medical problems

BACKACHE Before you take regular strength pain relievers for a muscular backache, remember this: Momentum® Tablets are specially made for backaches. They're 50% stronger...with 50% more pain reliever per dose to relieve backache pain...to soothe inflammation, so you can move more freely again. Momentum® Tablets: specially made for backaches... 50% stronger.



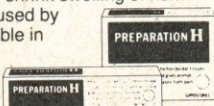
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Member Services Build VFW Strength

Membership in the VFW not only makes you part of a great and growing organization, but it entitles you to substantial savings on many important needs.

A member of the VFW may be able to participate in any of six different insurance programs:

- **VFW Hospital Benefit Plan**
- **Cancer Expense Assistance Plan**
- **VFW National Life Insurance**
- **VFW Cash Value Life Insurance**
- **Post Accidental Death & Dismemberment Plan**
- **Level Term Life Insurance Program**

For insurance information, call toll-free 1-800-821-2606.

In addition, a substantial saving through the VFW Approved Prescription Drug and Vitamin Program is available.

Through National Car Rental, a reduced rate is offered.

More and expanded benefits will be coming in the near future.

MAIL CALL

Indian Veterans

We are collecting records of Indian veterans of American wars of the 20th century. Because there has been very little written in our history books about Indian veterans, their contributions have gone largely unnoticed by most Americans.

Not a single book has been published to date on the Indians in WWI and of the six or more books published on WWII and the Indian, not a single one was a broad synthesis which covered all tribes involved and the total contributions of the Native American. We think this project is much overdue.

Any help in locating material on veterans who are still living and who are members or non-members of the VFW, will be greatly appreciated. Deceased veterans whom you remem-



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VFW OBJECTIVES

- TO INSURE THE NATIONAL SECURITY through maximum military strength.
- TO SPEED THE REHABILITATION of the nation's disabled and needy veterans.
- TO ASSIST THE WIDOWS AND ORPHANS, and the dependents of disabled and needy veterans.
- TO PROMOTE AMERICANISM through education in patriotism and constructive service to the communities in which we live.

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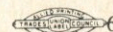
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MEMBER AUDIT BUREAU
OF CIRCULATION
(ISSN 0161-8598)

(continued on page 19)

LEGISLATIVE

TWENTY-TWO BILLS HAVE BEEN REFERRED TO THE HOUSE VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.

ONE, BY REP. JAMES H. QUILLEN (TENN.), HR 258, WOULD PERMIT WEEKEND AND HOLIDAY BURIALS IN NATIONAL CEMETERIES. ANOTHER BY QUILLEN, HR 260, CALLS FOR THE REMOVAL OF TIME LIMITATION FOR USE OF GI BILL EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE BENEFITS. REP. ROBERT A. ROE'S HR 325 WOULD LET CERTAIN SERVICE CONNECTED DISABLED VETERANS WHO ARE MILITARY RETIREES TO RECEIVE COMPENSATION CONCURRENTLY WITH RETIRED PAY WITHOUT DEDUCTION FROM EITHER. ANOTHER BY REP. ROE (N.J.), HR 326, WOULD PROVIDE MORTGAGE PROTECTION TO CERTAIN VETERANS UNABLE TO OBTAIN IT COMMERCIALY BECAUSE OF SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES. ALSO BY REP. ROE: HR 329 CALLS FOR SERVICE PENSIONS FOR WWI VETERANS, THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSES AND CHILDREN; HR 332 WOULD PROMOTE CARE AND TREATMENT OF VETERANS IN STATE VETERANS' NURSING HOMES; HR 333 WOULD ALLOW CERTAIN 70-YEAR-OLDS TO WAIVE PAYMENT OF NATIONAL SERVICE LIFE INSURANCE (NSLI) PREMIUMS.

REP. G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST (VA.) HAS INTRODUCED HR 433 WHICH WOULD PREVENT REMARRIAGE OF THE SURVIVING SPOUSE OF A VETERAN AFTER 60 FROM TERMINATING DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION. REP. DOUGLAS APPELGATE (OHIO) HAS INTRODUCED SIX BILLS: HR 460 WOULD LET CERTAIN ELIGIBLE VETERANS BUY UP TO \$20,000 WORTH OF NSLI; HR 461 WOULD HAVE THE SAME EFFECT AS REP. ROE'S HR 326; HR 464 WOULD PROVIDE A TWO-YEAR PRESUMPTIVE PERIOD OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR PSYCHOSES THAT DEVELOP WITHIN TWO YEARS FROM DATE OF SEPARATION FROM ACTIVE SERVICE; HR 466 WOULD EXTEND FROM ONE YEAR TO TWO YEARS THE PERIOD VETERANS WITH SERVICE CONNECTED DISABILITIES MAY APPLY FOR NSLI; HR 467 WOULD INCREASE SPECIALLY ADAPTED HOUSING BENEFITS FOR CERTAIN SERVICE CONNECTED SERIOUSLY DISABLED VETERANS, AND HR 468, WHICH WOULD HAVE THE SAME EFFECT AS ROE'S HR 325.

REP. JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT (ARK.) INTRODUCED TWO: HR 608, WHICH WOULD GIVE VETERANS FREEDOM OF CHOICE AS TO HOW CERTAIN DRUGS AND MEDICINES WILL BE SUPPLIED TO THEM, AND HR 609 THAT WOULD GIVE SERVICE PRESUMPTION TO PROGRESSIVE MUSCULAR ATROPHY OR AMYOTROPHIC LATERAL SCLEROSIS DEVELOPING A 10% OR MORE DEGREE OF DISABILITY WITHIN SEVEN YEARS AFTER SEPARATION FROM ACTIVE SERVICE DURING A PERIOD OF WAR.

HR 634 BY REP. THOMAS A. LUKEN (OHIO) WOULD EXTEND THE PERIOD VIETNAM ERA VETERANS MAY USE EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE PRESENT 10 YEARS TO 20 YEARS FROM RELEASE FROM ACTIVE DUTY BUT NOT LATER THAN DEC. 31, 1999.

REP. G.V. MONTGOMERY (MISS.) INTRODUCED HR 649 THAT WOULD ESTABLISH A COURT OF VETERANS' APPEALS; HR 650 TO PROVIDE DIRECT LOANS TO VETERANS TO STUDY RESIDENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEMS AND OTHER ENERGY CONSERVATION METHODS, AND HR 652 THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE THE VA ADMINISTRATOR TO PROVIDE A CASKET FLAG FOR A DECEASED RESERVIST WHO HAS HAD 20 YEARS' RESERVE SERVICE.

VETERANS' BENEFITS WOULD BE EXTENDED TO THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES BETWEEN NOV. 12, 1918, AND JULY 2, 1921, UNDER HR 654 BY REP. WILLIAM H. NATCHER (KY.).

REP. CLARENCE D. LONG (MD.) INTRODUCED H. CON. RES. 8 URGING PRESIDENT TO PROVIDE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE FOR THE BURIAL OF AN UNKNOWN VIETNAM ERA SOLDIER IN ARLINGTON CEMETERY.

REP. MONTGOMERY'S HR 648 THAT WOULD GIVE CABINET RANK TO THE VA ADMINISTRATOR WAS SENT TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

REP. HAMMERSCHMIDT'S H.J. RES. 63 CALLING FOR THE ERECTION OF A MONUMENT TO THOSE WHO SERVED IN THE KOREAN WAR HAS BEEN REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION. THE MEMORIAL WOULD BE ON PUBLIC GROUNDS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OR ENVIRONS.

SERVICE

MORE RESPONSES HAVE COME IN REGARDING VFW RESOLUTIONS RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR. SPOKESMAN IS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT WILLIAM C. PLOWDEN, JR. ON RESOLUTION 640, HE SAID THERE IS AN ACCOUNTING SYSTEM FOR DISABLED VETERANS OUTREACH PROGRAM FUNDS, AND FOR THE LOCAL VETERANS EMPLOYMENT REPRESENTATIVE, IT IS THE POSITIONS WHICH ARE TRACKED. THE RESOLUTION CALLS FOR

SAFEGUARDS TO ASSURE THAT FEDERAL MONEY PROVIDED STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES ARE USED EXCLUSIVELY TO FIND WORK FOR VETERANS. A SECOND PORTION OF THE RESOLUTION URGES ADEQUATE FUNDING BY CONGRESS AND FUNDS TO STATES FOR VETERANS EMPLOYMENT BE IDENTIFIED SEPARATELY IN LABOR'S BUDGET. COMMENTING ON RESOLUTION 643, PLOWDEN SAID DVOP WILL BE FUNDED IN FY 1983 AND 1984 FROM THE FEDERAL UNEMPLOYMENT TAX ACT AND NOT GENERAL REVENUES. THE RESOLUTION ASKED FOR FUNDS FROM GENERAL REVENUES FOR NO FEWER THAN 2,000 DVOP SPECIALISTS. PLOWDEN SAID THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DOES NOT SUPPORT RESOLUTION 645, WHICH SEEKS TO UPHOLD RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS FOR APPOINTMENTS OF DIRECTORS OF VETERANS' EMPLOYMENT SERVICE. ANOTHER RESOLUTION RESPONDED TO WAS 740, WHICH OPPOSES CHANGES IN THE WAGNER-PEYSER ACT. PLOWDEN SAID AMENDMENTS CONTAINED IN THE JOB TRAINING PARTNERSHIP ACT DID NOT HAVE ANY OF THE ADVERSE EFFECTS EXPRESSED IN 740. "IN FACT, THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE AGENCIES WILL NOT BE PARTNERS IN A SINGLE JOB AND JOB TRAINING SERVICE DELIVERY SYSTEM." ON RESOLUTION 762, ASKING THAT CONGRESS IDENTIFY VETERANS AS A TARGET GROUP IN FUTURE EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING LEGISLATION, PLOWDEN SAID IT APPLIES TO CONGRESS, BUT HIS OFFICE WILL ALWAYS SUPPORT PRIORITY FOR VETERANS IN EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAMS. OTHER RESOLUTIONS RESPONDED TO WERE 699 AND 684, DETAILED, LIKE THE OTHERS, IN THE MARCH WASHINGTON ACTION REPORTER AVAILABLE FROM YOUR POST COMMANDER.

NATIONAL SECURITY

FORMER SEN. S.I. HAYAKAWA, OF CALIFORNIA, OF JAPANESE EXTRACTION AND A DISTINGUISHED LINGUIST, INTRODUCED A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BEFORE HIS RECENT RETIREMENT FROM THE SENATE TO MAKE ENGLISH THE OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE U.S. CITING THE DIVERSE ETHNIC ORIGIN OF THE U.S. SENATE, HE SAID, "WE ARE LESS THAN HONEST WITH LINGUISTIC MINORITY GROUPS IF WE TELL THEM THEY CAN TAKE FULL PART IN AMERICAN LIFE WITHOUT LEARNING ENGLISH. YET THAT IS WHAT WE ARE TELLING THEM." HE POINTED TO THE ANOMALY OF ONE LAW REQUIRING A PERSON TO BE ABLE TO READ, WRITE AND SPEAK ENGLISH TO BE A CITIZEN AND ANOTHER NOW REQUIRING BILINGUAL BALLOTS FOR THOSE WHO DO NOT. HE WAS CRITICAL ALSO OF "BILINGUAL" EDUCATION AS FAILING TO TEACH ENGLISH AT AN AGE WHEN CHILDREN'S LANGUAGE-LEARNING POWERS ARE GREATEST. "WE ARE SENDING CONFLICTING SIGNALS TO THE NON-ENGLISH-SPEAKING PEOPLE AMONG US. DO THEY NEED TO LEARN ENGLISH OR DON'T THEY?"

* * *

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF JAMES R. CURRIEO HAS PRAISED THE ADMINISTRATION'S DECISION NOT TO PAY AN ANNUAL \$1 MILLION UNITED NATIONS ASSESSMENT FOR AN INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION SET UP UNDER THE LAW OF THE SEA TREATY THE U.S. REFUSED TO SIGN. IN COMMENTING, CURRIEO SAID THE REFUSAL WILL OPEN A MORE BASIC QUESTION. WHY SHOULD THE U.S., ONE OF 157 UN MEMBERS PAY 25% OF THE UN'S ANNUAL BUDGET AND NOT 1/157TH?

* * *

SPEAKING OF THE UN, KENNETH L. ADELMAN, U.S. DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UN UNTIL NOMINATED AS DIRECTOR OF THE ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY, WROTE RECENTLY OF HOW WORDS TAKE ON THEIR OWN MEANING AT THE UN. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME OF ITS 'MEMBER STATES' ARE NOT STATES AT ALL (UKRAINE, BYELORUSSIA) AND SOME IMPORTANT STATES (SWITZERLAND, SOUTH KOREA) ARE NOT MEMBERS.

* * *

WHEN PRESIDENT REAGAN ASSERTED THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN MANIPULATING THE NUCLEAR FREEZE MOVEMENT FOR THEIR OWN ENDS, HE WAS RIGHT. THE RECORD PROVES IT. BREZHNEV CALLED OFFICIALLY FOR THE FREEZE ON FEB. 23, 1981. LESS THAN A MONTH LATER, THE FIRST NATIONAL STRATEGY CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN NUCLEAR FREEZE CAMPAIGN CONVENED AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY. TWO KGB AGENTS ADDRESSED IT. ON NOV. 19, 1981, NATO GENERAL SECRETARY JOSEPH LUNS SAID HE HAD READ INTELLIGENCE REPORTS INDICATING USSR WAS AIDING FREEZENIK MOVEMENTS IN THE WEST. GERMAN CHANCELLOR HELMUT KOHL SAID A KEY ELEMENT OF THE WEST GERMAN PEACE MOVEMENT ARE THOSE WHO "BASICALLY ACT ON BEHALF OF THE SOVIET UNION." IN BRITAIN AT LEAST SEVEN COMMUNIST PARTY MEMBERS ARE IN KEY POSITIONS ON THE COMMITTEE FOR NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. IN OCTOBER, 1981, THE DANES EXPELLED SOVIET EMBASSY SECOND SECRETARY FOR SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES AFTER HE PAID A DANISH WRITER, HERLOV PETERSON, \$2,000 TO BUY ADS PROMOTING A NORDIC NUCLEAR FREE ZONE. THE NEXT MONTH ANOTHER SOVIET DIPLOMAT WAS EXPELLED FROM NORWAY FOR MAKING SIMILAR OFFERS. A TASS CORRESPONDENT WAS EXPELLED FROM THE NETHERLANDS IN APRIL, 1981, FOR HIS ROLE IN THE DUTCH PEACE MOVEMENT.

We Won't Let Up On the POWs/MLAs



Commander-in-Chief James R. Currieo advises newly-elected Rep. James F. McNulty (Ariz.) on VFW legislative positions and support for the POWs/MLAs. Currieo lives in McNulty's Congressional district.

The 10th anniversary of the signing of the Paris Peace Accords on Jan. 27, 1973, that were supposed to end the fighting in Vietnam has come and gone, but we are no closer to obtaining the promised accounting of the 2,494 still listed as missing.

Nor has there been any solid movement toward the release of American prisoners still thought to be held in Southeast Asia.

It was heartening, however, to hear and to read President Reagan's words

to the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia at the 10th anniversary observance in Crystal City, Va.

He assured the league that United States intelligence agencies are "fully focused" on the problem and that the goal of a full accounting is "the highest national priority."

"The anguish you have suffered—the families of brave men listed as prisoners of war or as missing in action—is unspeakable, something the rest of

us can never really know in even partial measure."

Appearing before the families of the missing and the prisoners, he stood before their symbol, the black flag bearing the likeness of an American captive, barbed wire and a lookout tower.

President Reagan told the families, though perhaps with pardonable rhetorical overkill given the emotionally charged nature of the occasion, "Your vigil is over. Your government is atten-

(continued on page 48)

General Orders

National Headquarters Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

General Orders No. 6

1982-83 Series

1. Post Commanders are reminded that every Post must register one or more delegates to the VFW National Convention. Advance registration for the 84th National Convention that will be held in New Orleans, La., Aug. 12-19, 1983, is six dollars (\$6.00).
Delegate's name and address, together with advance registration fee, should be mailed to Veterans of Foreign Wars 84th National Convention, Suite 406, New Orleans Hilton Hotel, Poydras at the Mississippi River, New Orleans, La. 71040.
2. March 31 marks the close of the Community Activities recordbook contest year. Recordbooks should be mailed to Department Headquarters, or as directed by the Department Community Activities Chairman, for state contest judging.
3. Posts are urged to start planning now for Loyalty Day observances in their community. Requests for Loyalty Day material should be forwarded to National Headquarters, attention of the Americanism Department.
4. Commanders on all levels should begin organizing their 1983 Memorial Day Buddy Poppy sale. Promotional material has been mailed to all Commanders. Every Post is urged to order and sell VFW Buddy Poppies.
5. Attention is directed to Section 213 of the National Constitution and By-Laws concerning arrearages of Posts for membership reports, National, Department, County Council or District dues, poppy money, supply money or other financial obligations, or failure to have the office of Quartermaster bonded, or failure to submit quarterly Post Trustees Report of Audit. Posts that are delinquent in any of the aforementioned shall be deprived of all representation in County Council meetings, District, Department and National Conventions.
6. Attention of Post Commanders is directed to Section 218, Manual of Procedure, Duty of Trustees. Trustees Report of Audit must be completed by the Trustees, in detail, at the close of each quarter, one of which ends March 31. Commanders are reminded that all funds are to be under the custody and control of the Post Quartermaster. Persons other than the Post Quartermaster who may handle Post funds, such as Club Manager, Bingo Chairman or committee chairmen are responsible to the Post Quartermaster to maintain accurate records and accounts, and should be properly bonded. Post Trustees are to ensure that the financial records of these special funds are also audited in the same manner as the other accounts of the Post Quartermaster.
7. The following appointments are hereby announced: NATIONAL CIVIL SERVICE AND EMPLOYMENT COMMITTEE: Member: The Rev. William D. Garman, Post 1990, Greenville, Tenn. NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: Member: Sam Angotti, Post 548, Morgantown, W.Va. NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE: Member: The Rev. John H.K. Miller, Post 6483, Milford, Del. NATIONAL DEPUTY CHIEFS OF STAFF: John Amazi, Post 6090, Ford, N.J.; Joseph Povich, Post 5479, Dunellen, N.J.; Raymond Fisher, Post 6059, W. Portal, N.J.; John Lorenzo, Post 6257, Belleplain, N.J.; V. Wayne Safreed, Post 2833, Kenil, N.J.; Allan O. Risley, Post 2189, Sommers Point, N.J. ASSISTANT INSPECTOR GENERAL: Larry L. Dalton, Post 1289, Chattanooga, Tenn.
8. Certificates of charter evidencing consolidation have been issued to the following Posts: Posts 5134 and 8511 consolidated as Post 8511, Rosalie, Neb., and Posts 2105 and 10618 consolidated as Post 2105, Harrisburg, Ore.
9. The locations of the following Posts have been changed: Post 3335 from Livermore Falls to Jay, Maine, and Post 7210 from Barrett Station to Crosby, Texas.
10. Charters for the following Posts have been authorized: Post 272, Warwick, R.I.; Post 749, Fallston, Md.; Post 1246, Harrisburg, Ill.; Post 1996, Mentor, Ohio; Post 2099, Carlisle, Iowa; Post 3003, Findlay, Ohio; Post 3830, Pahoa, Hawaii; Post 4208, Old Fort, N.C.; Post 5922, Hampstead, Md.; Post 8120, Poinciana, Fla.; Post 8205, Parker, Fla.; Post 10073, Kingsville, Md.; Post 10407, Weyauwega, Wis.; Post 10688, Canterbury, Conn., and Post 10691, Bremerhaven, Germany.

By Command of
JAMES R. CURRIEO
Commander-in-Chief

OFFICIAL:
Howard E. Vander Clute, Jr.
Adjutant General



Vietnam veterans unveil a monument to those from Coles County, Ill., killed during the Vietnam War. The monument was erected by Post 4325 in Mattoon.

5 Posts, 1 District Win National Community Activity Awards

The 6th District of Minnesota and Posts 9738, East Huntington, W. Va., and 4325, Mattoon, Ill., have been named winners of VFW Community Activities Silver Awards for Excellence following judging at National Headquarters.

Posts 3023, Grand Rapids, Mich.; 3440, Bandon, Ore., and 3979, Cloquet, Minn., won the Bronze Award of Merit.

Minnesota's 6th District supported distribution of government surplus foods to low income families, with 228 volunteers working over 1,700 hours at 24 locations. District Posts also donated floor space for use as distribution centers.

Post 9738 assumed total financial and maintenance support of a neighborhood swimming pool after community recreational funds were removed from the municipal budget. Expenses to keep the pool open for area youth and aged and handicapped persons amounted to over \$36,000 and saved the city in excess of \$25,000.

Post 4325 planned, contracted and built a monument to Vietnam veterans in a local park. The \$3,100 black granite structure with adjoining flag

pole, dedicated during July 4, 1982, ceremonies, contains the names of those from Coles County who died in Vietnam.

The annual ox roast sponsored by Post 3023 and its Ladies Auxiliary netted a \$4,200 donation to the West Michigan Poison Center. Proceeds each year are earmarked for a different recipient.

In cooperation with other Bandon, Ore., organizations, Post 3440 worked over 1,100 hours and sponsored an auction to raise \$7,500 for a "Jaws of Life" rescue device for the local fire department.

Post 3979 and Auxiliary led the way in planning, designing, building and funding a 22-step outdoor staircase to solve a safety problem at Veterans Park in Cloquet.

Commenting on the work done by these winning units, Commander-in-Chief James R. Currieo said:

"The contributions they have made to their communities prove once again that the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary firmly believe the service they render goes a long way toward making ours a better country and each city, town, village or hamlet more livable."

VFW

The VA's Vocational Rehabilitation

By Dr. Thomas S. Golabek

WANTED: Disabled Veterans with employment handicaps; earn \$282 monthly (more with dependents) while being trained to an entry level occupation; all tuition, books, tools, medical and dental expenses paid. Apply at VA.

Sound pretty good? Well, if you're a disabled veteran, you might very well qualify for this program. This does not mean that all disabled vets are eligible, just because they are disabled. First of all, your disability or disabilities must be service connected at least 10% for it or them.

If you are not sure if you are receiving compensation, then you probably don't have a service connected disability (SCD). Another requirement that has to be met by the veteran is that he must be evaluated as having an employment handicap caused by the SCD. That basically means that his or her SCD caused him or her difficulty in finding or holding employment.

Here's an example. A bulldozer operator decides to join the Navy CBs. While in the service, he incurs a back injury which is aggravated by any bouncing. Unfortunately, inherent in driving a bulldozer is a fairly high level of jolting and rough riding. The vet is discharged, given a service connected disability and let loose in the civilian job force. He had been trained only as a bulldozer operator and can no longer function at this because of his service connected disability. He would probably be found to be "in need" of training in an occupation which is not aggravating his SCD.

Many vets, upon hearing the term vocational rehabilitation, imagine a pro-

gram of training put on by the Veterans Administration. Actually, the VA does no actual vocational training, but rather assists the vet in becoming trained. It may include on-the-job training (OJT), vocational training in a trade school or an academic program at a college.

Other benefits that may be available to the vet, if necessary, are tutorial services, reader services for the blind, typing services, academic and vocational counseling, job search skill workshops (going through interviews, writing resumes, tips on federal hiring), testing (personality, IQ, interests, values, and the like), a two-month adjustment allowance when training is completed, as well as extensive assistance in finding a job.

Several factors, besides the compensable rating and employment handicap, are considered. These include the amount of entitlement, medical infeasibility, type of discharge, date of rating, physical or psychological limitations and previous training.

Chapter 31, Title 38, United States Code, is the legal name for the Vocational Rehabilitation Program. A form 22-1900 is the application used to request benefits. To gather more information concerning the Vocational Rehabilitation program, you can contact any VA Regional Office or legal representatives of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. If you look in the white pages of your local phone directory under United States Government, Veterans Administration, you can reach a VA representative, toll-free, in all 50 states.

NFW

Dr. Golabek is a counseling psychologist with the VA in San Francisco.

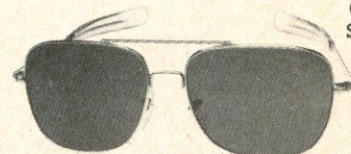
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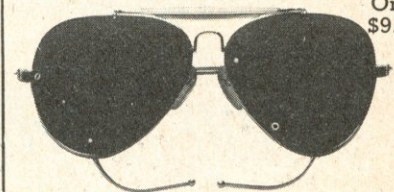
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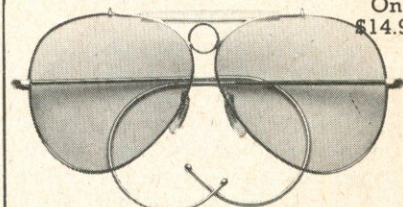
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VFW Service Office Success Story

In recent back-to-back successes at testing to the outstanding service provided to veterans, their dependents and survivors by Minnesota VFW Department Service Officer Gerald J. Stokke and his staff, two veterans have been granted total disability service connected benefits and substantial retroactive awards.

Following are summaries of each of these cases:

After extensive arguments offered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Appeals Staff, the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA), in a decision reached on June 7, 1982, conceded entitlement to a 100% disability evaluation for David S. Harrington's service connected disability.

The official records were then returned to the St. Paul Veterans Administration Regional Office for implemen-

tation of the appellate decision and assignment of an effective date. After considering the medical data of record and the regulations governing effective dates, the St. Paul office awarded the 100% rating effective Sept. 9, 1981, the date the veteran entered a VA medical center for treatment. As a consequence, a retroactive check in the amount of \$8,600 was paid.

In his review of the rating action, Stokke became curious about the basis for the Sept. 9 effective date. He reviewed the claims folder and found the veteran had filed a claim for a 100% rating due to individual unemployment on July 18, 1978, and that the claim had been opened since that date. He presented his findings to the appropriate VA official in St. Paul, arguing that the 100% evaluation

should have been made retroactive to July 18, 1978, rather than Sept. 9, 1981. His position was favorably received. A readjustment award of \$25,113.47 was made for a total of \$33,713.47 retroactive benefits.

Prior to the award of benefits in this case, Harrington, his wife and two children were about to be displaced from their rented apartment. As a consequence of the Veterans of Foreign Wars assistance, the veteran and his family have now been able to purchase their own home.

The case of Timothy D. Bakke was presented to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Appeals Staff in Washington in May, 1980, for presentation before the BVA following the denial of service connection by the St. Paul VA Regional Office. As a consequence of the VFW's

(continued on page 46)

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by Philip E. Brancato Sr.

Yes, you can make \$1000 a month and more with just a hack saw in your spare time.

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No, you will not get rich, but you can make over \$1000 a month in your spare time and have a ball doing it.

I tried all those "Get Rich" gimmicks that are advertised, that never tell you anything until you've sent them your \$25, and then you find out their gimmicks were not for you. Well, I've tried them all and I'm still not rich.

All I ever wanted was something I could do in my spare time with my hands, make a little money and enjoy myself and not have to buy \$3000 worth of tools or merchandise to do it.

Believe It Or Not

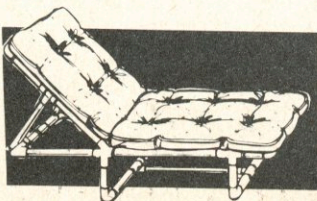
I found the most enjoyable and profitable business working with my hands and the only tools I use are a hack saw and measuring tape. The really nice thing about it is any man, woman or ten-year-old can do it.

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I make beautiful indoor/outdoor P.V.C. pipe furniture. Such as chairs, lounges, tables, swings, and all kinds of baby furniture out of P.V.C. pipe; even birdhouses and feeders. P.V.C. pipe furniture is the hottest selling furniture on the market today, because it is unique and beautiful and will not rot or rust and it will virtually last a life time.

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hours of work is selling for over \$228 in the stores. I can sell my chaise lounge for anything I think my labor is worth. For once, the big manufacturing companies cannot compete with me or you on prices. You will find you will have more orders than you want!

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You can buy the P.V.C. pipe from any local hardware store to start. Plus I will supply you with the names and addresses of cushions and pipe manufacturers who will sell to you wholesale, plus I will supply you with my shop manual and six detailed shop drawings with pictures and measurements of six different designs.

Do you need my shop drawings

No, you don't need my shop drawings unless you want to save hundreds of hours of trial and error work and thousands of dollars that I had to spend before I finally

found the right design and measurements and tricks to the manufacturing of P.V.C. pipe furniture. I only wish that when I started, I could have bought these shop drawings and I would have gladly paid \$100 for just one of them.

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Broadening Agent Orange Study Will Benefit All Vietnam Vets, Says Chief

Broadening the Agent Orange study to include health problems caused by other toxic agents and medications is regarded by VFW Commander-in-Chief James R. Currie as a move that "will benefit all Vietnam veterans."

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recently announced the study would be widened, as suggested by the VFW.

Currie said he was gratified that "the CDC has agreed with the VFW to study also whether other chemicals such as dapsone have caused health problems."

A few days ago he toured the CDC's Atlanta, Ga., facilities and found the professionalism of the staff there impressive and was confident that the study will be carried out efficiently.

"The VFW had recommended an independent agency to study the effects of Agent Orange and other health problems of those who served in Vietnam," he continued.

"The contract between the Veterans Administration and CDC was signed and money and 28 employees transferred in mid-January."

In addition, the VA and Defense Department will continue related studies, but the CDC will conduct the principal research and CDC officials have promised to consult with the VFW during the investigation.

Announcement of the VA's advance of \$3 million to the CDC was made last Jan. 17 and hailed by newly-appointed VA Administrator Harry N. Walters as "a giant step forward in serving the interests of veterans."

"I am confident CDC will proceed as fast as possible in its search for answers to this perplexing subject," he continued. "The time frame can be dictated only by the realities of scientific

research.

"CDC has earned the confidence of the American public many times and in many ways on scientific subjects, and I am confident that its findings will be accepted by veterans and others concerned about veterans' health."

The agreement, signed by Dr. Donald L. Custis, VA chief medical director, and Edward Brandt, Jr., assistant secretary for health in the Department of Health and Human Services, transfers to CDC the resources for the design, implementation, analysis and scientific interpretation of a valid epidemiological study.

To assist the CDC in developing its study design, the VA provided CDC with a preliminary study design developed by the UCLA School of Public Health, along with the extensive reviews from the Science Panel of the Agent Orange Working Group; the Office of Technology Assessment; the VA Advisory Committee on Health Related Effects of Herbicides, and the National Academy of Sciences.

Walters said, "This transfer of the epidemiology study in no way diminishes the commitment of the VA to provide clinical care to Vietnam veterans concerned about exposure to Agent Orange."

"Further, the Agency will continue to conduct biomedical research in the area of possible long term health effects related to herbicides."

All decisions related to the design, conduct, analysis, and scientific interpretation of the results of the study shall be the sole responsibility of CDC.

The VA will forward the final report on the findings of the study to Congress as it is received in finished form from CDC.



NOTICES

For Claims Assistance

ARMY

3rd Constab. Bde., HQ Co.; 6th Constab. Bde., Horse Plt.; 212 Inf. Trng. Bde., Co. A; 232nd Inf. Trng. Bde., Co. A (June 1945-46)—Seeking anyone who served in any of the above units and remembers my condition—Jack A. Wolfe, 1525 Spruce St., Indianapolis, Ind. 46203.

9th Inf. Div., 4/47th Mob. Riverine Force, Co. B (Vietnam, 1968)—Seeking John Hall, Kossow, Ralph Kee, Pete Hayden, Riley, Lincoln, Benjamin, "Ape", or anyone serving with me in August, 1968.—Bobby Jefcoat, 253 Pearson St., Clarksdale, Miss. 38614.

11th Engr. Bn., HQ Motor Pool (Pusan, Korea, 1950-51)—Seeking anyone who remembers my being injured and in field hospital.—Herman (Tex) Lanterman, Box 286, Sparrowbush, N.Y. 12780.

28th Div., 108th EA. Bn., Btry. A (1941-44)—Seeking anyone who served with me.—Dudley James Wallace, 230 Friendly Ln., Wilmington, N.C. 28401.

31st Ord. D.A.S. Co. (Korea, 1951-July 1953); Funchu Ord. Dep., Funabashi Ord. Shops, Ord. Auto. Rehab. Maint. Co. (Prov.) (Yokohama, Japan)—Need to contact anyone knowing about injuries suffered during road test accident with wrecker.—Lawrence (Larry) Huttash, Box 1373, Jacksonville, Tex. 75766.

52nd Mil. Govt. (Wonju, Korea)—Ray Shank, 43 Jackson St., Boscawen, N.H. 03303.

71st Div., 3rd Rgt. (Regensburg, W. Germany, April, 1946)—Seeking anyone who witnessed jeep accident resulting in my neck and back injuries.—Dr. Morris Rosenbaum, 1158 Camino Del Vientos, Marathon, Fla. 33050.

104th Div. 386 FA, Ft. Lewis FDC (1953)—Need to contact the following persons to establish VA claim: Lts. Manchester, Winchester, Hupp, Plane; Sgts. Johnson, Boyd, Slaughter, Blood.—James B. Groves, 500 Orange Ave. Cir. T-3, Belle Glade, Fla. 33430.

593rd Boat & Shore Rgt., B & C Boats (Brunel Bay and River Klias, North Borneo, June 19-23, 1945)—Seeking seven wounded U.S. personnel from river operation—J.D. Machette, 726 E. Townsend Ave., Milwaukee, Wis. 53212.

636th TD Bn., Co. A—Need to contact anyone in unit, particularly soldier with me when Lt. Long was killed in jeep.—Otis C. Truett, Rt. 4, Box 223, Bishopville, S.C.

756th Tank Bn., Co. B (WWII)—Seeking anyone knowing the whereabouts of 1st Sgt. Alvin Nusz, Capt. Redie, Bill Market, Irving Shapiro or any medic attached to that unit.—Gene Palumbo, 22 Boston Rd., Newbury, Mass. 09150.

729th M/G Bn., Hdq. Btry. Camp Butner, N.C., 1944; Foster Gen. Hosp. (Jackson, Miss., June-August, 1944)—Seeking Lt. Hubbard and T/5 Elmer S. Yaden.—John W. Clement, Sr., 141 7th Ave. Ct. N.E., Altoona, Iowa 50009.

746 ROB (WWII)—Need to contact any members, medics and doctors who remember me being sick and treated for stomach problems and frostbitten feet.—William C. Parham, 1325 Beal St., Rocky Mount, N.C. 27801.

NAVY

USS Hobson (DD 464, later DMS 26, WWII)—Need to contact shipmates who knew about my back problems after I rescued the captain and three whaleboat loads of survivors at the sinking of USS Corry, June 6, 1944. Also must contact doctor aboard the Hobson who recommended an operation.—Edward R. New, PO. Box 2091, Pace, Fla. 32570.

SS Jefferson Myer (WWII)—Seeking information concerning shipboard accident while in route from London to Hull (North Sea) or the whereabouts of any crew members serving from 1941-43.—James (Dick) H. Dixon, Sr., 3725 Hermine St., Durham, N.C. 27705.

VA 57 and VE 57 (Squantum Nav. Air Base, Mass., summer, 1950)—Seeking anyone who served with either unit when called to active duty for Korean service.—William A. Harper, 9308 Navajo Pl., Sun Lake, Ariz. 85224.

USS Inflict (AM 251, summer, 1945)—Need witnesses to back injury suffered while pulling a 40mm gun barrel, particularly G.M. John Carr and Lt. Taylor.—James R. Talley, 529 Lossing Ave., Colonial Beach, Va. 22443.

MARINES

V-6, Cub 2, Echelon 2—Seeking anyone who remembers multiple injuries I incurred.—Chester M. Lampe, 617 Kendrick Pl., Boulder City, Nev. 89005.

ALL BRANCHES

611th Air Control and Warning Sqdn. (Japan, 1946)—Seeking Air Force, Army, Navy personnel who handled radioactive aircraft instruments during WWII and Korean War.—Jeffrey A. Shadwick, Ste. 430, 200 W. Douglas, Wichita, Kans. 67202.

AIR FORCE

Seeking comrades

98th Strategic Aerospace Wing (Lincoln AFB, 1965-66)—Seeking S/Sgt. Douglas A. Sass; also former members of unit from July 25, 1954, to June 25, 1966, also of the 98th from June 25, 1966, to December 31, 1976, at Torrejon AB and Zaragoza AB (Spain).—John F. McDonald, 307 S. Center St., Shelbyville, Mo. 63468.

324th Svc. Grp., 350 Svc. Sqdn. (WWII)—Seeking S/Sgt. Donald Rose Cerasula who served with me in Foggia, Italy.—James V. Cross, 307 W. Ridge Pike, Conshohocken, Pa. 19428.

339th Fighter Sqdn. & 339th Tactical Fighter Sqdn.—Seeking former members for association membership.—Richard Cowles, 745 Harrison, Belding, Mich. 48809.

SAMAP (Clark AFB, Pl., 1956-57)—Interested in contacting M/Sgt. Leroy Gregory and wife, Opal.—George Burks, Rt. 1, Box 300, Carriere, Miss. 39426.

USAF (Japan, 1950-52)—Information sought on present whereabouts of J.R. Jasty.—J.A. Herzog, 310-W, 3713 S. George Mason Dr., Falls Church, Va. 22041.

(continued on page 42)

Post, Air Force Fight *Hypertension*

By AFC Skip Wiseman

Volunteers from the U.S. Air Force hospital at England AFB, La., near Alexandria, have helped several members of VFW Post 1736 reduce their blood pressure levels dramatically.

Post Surgeon James R. Murray, a retired Air Force master sergeant, arranged for two people from the base to check VFW members' blood pressure the first Wednesday afternoon of each month, beginning in July, 1981.

M/Sgt. Wayne Chetney, who has since retired, and S/Sgt. Chris Holmes, now serving at another base, began holding the clinics at Post 1736 as a result of Murray's request.

At the first session, 90% of the people checked had hypertension. One person's blood pressure was so high he was advised to see his physician immediately.

The percentage of people indicating hypertension had dropped to 50% by the second clinic, according to William Samuels, Post 1736 Commander in 1981-82.

T/Sgt. William Sarabyn and S/Sgt. Sherry Williamson volunteered to continue the program after Sgts. Chetney and Holmes left the area. They have continued to see hypertension drop among the people who have had their blood pressure checked at the clinics.

"I've seen quite a difference since I started working with the clinic," Sgt. Williamson said. She pointed out that only five people out of the 50 to 60 tested at a recent clinic were hypertensive.

"If someone's blood pressure is ele-

vated to a dangerous level, we tell them to get in touch with their doctor," Sgt. Williamson explained. "We don't try to diagnose anything."

Sgt. Sarabyn pointed out that the clinics are open to anyone who wants to have his blood pressure checked.

"Several people who live near the Post come in to have their blood pressure checked," he said. "They're not VFW members, but they heard they could have their blood pressure checked for free."

"Many people we see are older and on medication," he said. "We take that into consideration when we recommend they see their doctor. Ordinarily, normal blood pressure is about 120 over 80. We don't recommend they see a doctor until it hits about 150 over 100."

"We talk to the people and let them know if their blood pressure is high," Sgt. Sarabyn continued. "We answer their questions. If we can, we calm their fears and reinforce the need to take medication as prescribed by their doctor."

Sgt. Sarabyn also pointed out there is an advantage to checking blood pressure in groups, rather than privately.

"Peer pressure plays a big part," he explained. "The person's friends are around when we take their blood pressure and find out if it's high. That gives the individual an extra incentive to take his medication and stay on his diet."

"That sort of thing doesn't happen in a doctor's office, because people see their doctor privately," he continued. "Nobody finds out their blood pressure is high except the person and the

doctor. Sometimes a doctor will tell someone something and they don't do what they should. They know they should, but the doctor isn't there to make sure they do."

"When their friends find out, they really give them a hard time about it," Sgt. Sarabyn said. "They make sure they do what they're supposed to do. The reinforcement the people get, from us and their friends, makes a difference. You can see the change from month to month."

"The people enjoy it," Sgt. Williamson said, "and we enjoy doing it. We do it the same day they play bingo at the Post, so there are usually quite a few people there."

"As long as they are already there, they can get their blood pressure checked while they're waiting for the games to start. Quite a few of them used to pay to have their blood pressure checked. Now they can have it done free."

"We can only check their blood pressure and let them know if they need to see a doctor, but that saves some of them a trip to the doctor just to have their blood pressure checked."

"We also take literature with us when we have it," Sgt. Sarabyn said. "We can't spend Air Force funds to get it, but we obtain literature from pharmaceutical companies and the American Heart Association which we can hand out."

"We're trying to advise people how to reduce the risk factor, and let them know if they need to see their doctor," he said. "Preventive medicine is what it's all about. If we can help them stay in good health, we've accomplished a major part of our goal."

VFW

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Before Midnight April 3

Viking Ind. will send any of the above truck size tarpaulins to any reader of this publication who reads and responds to this program before midnight April 3. Each tarpaulin is constructed of high density fabric (with virgin grade ingredient, supplied by Gulf Oil Co., Dow Chemical Co., and Union Oil Co.) with nylon reinforced rope hems, double lock stitched hems, electronically welded seams, 100% water proof, #4 (1/2" dia.) metal grommets set on 3 ft. centers with reinforced triangular corner patches and are recommended for all heavy duty use, and all bulk or pallet riding materials, and will be accompanied with a LIFETIME guarantee that it must perform 100% or it will be replaced free. Add \$7 handling & crating for each tarp ordered, Viking Ind. pays all shipping. Should you wish to return your tarpaulins you may do so for a full refund. Any letter postmarked later than April 3 will be returned. LIMIT: Fifty (50) tarps per address, no exceptions. Send appropriate sum together with your name & address to: Tarp Dept., #105AT, Viking Ind., 6314 Santa Monica Blvd., L.A., CA 90038, or for fastest service from any part of the country, call collect before midnight 7 days a week.

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House and Senate Veterans Units Members Listed

Although by Jan. 28, the bill by Rep. Thomas Daschle (S.D.) calling for compensation for Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange had not been introduced in the 98th Congress, VFW members will be advised of its numerical designation when it is.

A spokesman for Daschle said the bill will not be changed substantively from the one he introduced in the 97th Congress and numbered HR 2493.

Meanwhile, a list of House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees members is being published here in order that VFW members may write each one urging support for the Daschle bill as Commander-in-Chief James R. Currie recommended in the January issue.

The list will come in handy, too, for notifying them of VFW positions on other pieces of veterans' legislation.

Here are the names of the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee:

Reps. G.V. Montgomery (Miss.), chairman; John Paul Hammerschmidt (Ark.), ranking minority member; Don Edwards (Calif.), Bob Edgar (Pa.), Sam B. Hall, Jr. (Texas); Douglas Applegate (Ohio), Marvin Leath (Texas), Richard C. Shelby (Ala.), Dan Mica (Fla.), Thomas A. Daschle (S.D.),

Wayne Dowde (Miss.), Matthew G. Martinez (Calif.), Chalmers P. Wylie (Ohio), Elwood Hillis (Ind.), Gerald B.H. Solomon (N.Y.), Bob McEwen (Ohio), Chris Smith (N.J.) and Denny Smith (Ore.).

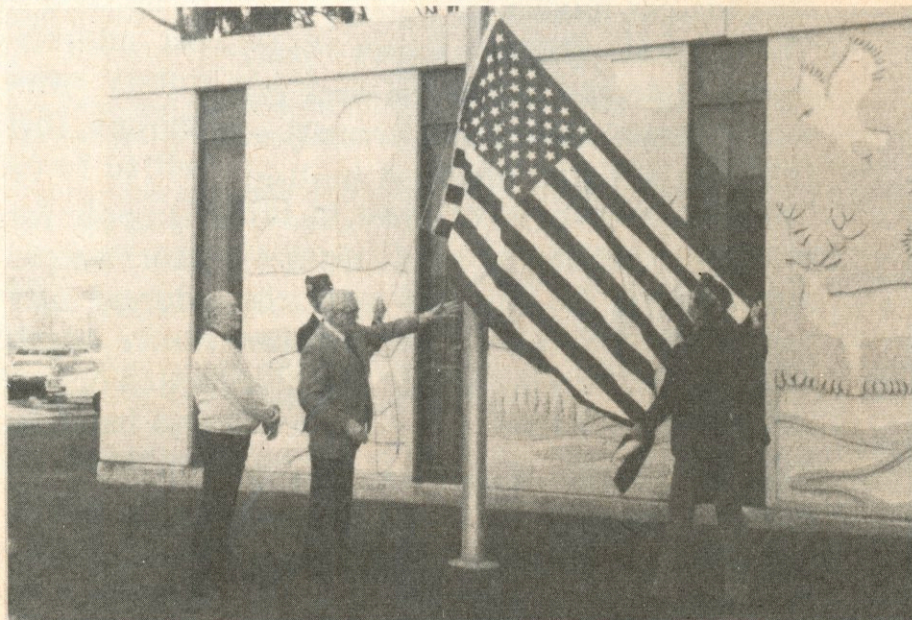
New members are Reps. Michael Bilirakis (Fla.), John Bryant (Texas), Dan Burton (Calif.), Lane Evans (Ill.), Frank Harrison (Pa.), Nancy Lee Johnson (Conn.), Marcy Kaptur (Ohio), Alan B. Mollohan (W. Va.), Timothy J. Penny (Minn.), Harley O. Staggers, Jr. (W. Va.); Dr. J. Roy Rowland (Ga.), Jim Slattery (Kans.) and Bill Richardson (N.M.).

The Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee is composed of:

Sens. Alan K. Simpson (Wyo.), chairman; Strom Thurmond (S.C.), Robert T. Stafford (Vt.), Frank H. Murkowski (Alaska), Arlen Specter (Pa.), Alan Cranston (Calif.), ranking minority member; Jennings Randolph (W. Va.), Spark M. Matsunaga (Hawaii), Dennis DeConcini (Ariz.) and George Mitchell (Maine).

Letters to members of the House Committee may be addressed to them in care of the United States House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515, while mail to those on the Senate Committee can be sent to the United States Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

VFW



Past Commander-in-Chief H.R. Rainwater, director of the San Diego VA Regional Office, receives a Flag for the office from Post 2082, Lemon Grove, Calif.

MAIL CALL

(continued from page 2)

ber and on whom you have materials will also be greatly welcomed. Veterans are asked to send a two-page survey which answers basic questions: Name, address, age, tribe, drafted or volunteered, branch of service, company, regiment, division, overseas, wounded, medals, which war, any photos, and two paragraphs on personal experiences.—*Dr. Duane K. Hale, University of Oklahoma, American Indian Institute, 555 Constitution Ave., Norman, Okla. 73037.*

Proud of Salute

I am Commander of Post 2096, Madison, Conn. I served in the Seabees for four years and was stationed at the U.S. Navy hospital south of Da Nang, Vietnam, from March, 1968 to March, 1969.

It was a tremendously gratifying experience to have attended the National Salute to Vietnam Veterans in Washington. The spirit of comradeship permeated the entire weekend. The VFW was highly visible and treated the veterans in a gracious manner.

Thousands of Vietnam veterans showed the nation that we care about our fallen comrades and those who are still missing. From what I saw that weekend, America should be proud of its Vietnam veterans; I am.—*Raymond G. Hanley, Jr., 28 Wildwood Ave., Madison, Conn. 06443.*

Vietvet Story Pleased

I would like to thank you for your article "The Vietvet" (November, 1982).

It was only the second article I have read in the years since my return from Vietnam which provides positive data on the Vietnam vet.

My friends and I who served in Southeast Asia have come to resent deeply the traditional picture of ourselves and peers as emotionally disturbed and unable to function in society.

The media insistence on presenting this picture did little to instill in society

(continued on page 45)

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RECENT BOOKS

Hardcover

History of the 94th Infantry in World War II edited by Lt. Laurence G. Byrnes, The Battery Press, 527 pages, no price given. This book retraces the steps of the 94th Infantry Division from its formation at Ft. Custer, Mich., in 1942, to Northern France, across the Rhineland, until its deactivation in 1946.

Buck: A Tennessee Boy in Korea by Keller Cox with Raymond L. (Doc) Frazier, Chogie Publications, 215 pages, \$9.95. The title character at 16 joins the Army and by 18 becomes a seasoned veteran in the endless hills of Korea.

Donovan, America's Master Spy by Richard Dunlop, Rand McNally, 562 pages, \$19.95. Maj. Gen. William J. Donovan's remarkable life as a soldier, lawyer, statesman and spy is presented in highly readable form, complete with photographs depicting his entire life of service to his nation.

Bomber Pilot by Philip Ardery, The University Press of Kentucky, 226 pages, \$16. Ardery, a former heavy

bomber pilot, delivers a firsthand account of the experience of air warfare in WW II, dealing extensively with the personal dimensions and attempting to answer the question: What was it like?

G.I. Jive, an Army Bandsman in World War II by Frank F Mathias, The University Press of Kentucky, 227 pages, \$17.50. In memorable prose, Mathias reports the story of his harrowing journey with his youthful comrades, caught up in the fabric of global warfare.

Winston Churchill, the Wilderness Years by Martin Gilbert, Houghton Mifflin Co., 273 pages, \$16.95. Published in association with the Masterpiece Theatre series for television, this is the remarkable story about the 10 years leading up to World War II, a time when Churchill endured and fought back from near political exile.

The History of the 43d Infantry Division by Joseph E. Zimmer, The Battery Press, 95 pages, no price given. The Winged Victory division's colorful four-year history during WWII is recalled in detail with several pages of historically significant photographs of the division in action in the Pacific Theater.

VFW

VFW Emphasis Is On Service to Veterans

By Frederico Juarbe

Since Commander-in-Chief James Currie's election there has been much activity in the programs coming under the purview of the National Veterans Service, and particularly the Veterans Administration.

All the 96 Veterans Service Committee resolutions passed at the 83rd National Convention have been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget and Departments of Labor and Defense, Office of Personnel Management, Small Business Administration and the White House for comments.

These agencies and the White House have responded, except the VA.

At the VA, there is some reluctance on the part of the Office of General Counsel to respond. This reluctance has been noted in past years, but the VFW has always prevailed upon the agency to provide comments.

With the new Administrator in office, it is hoped the VFW will be able to get a response soon.

All comments provided by the various agencies have been published in the *Washington Action Reporter* starting with the December issue. This practice will continue in future issues until all resolutions have been reported.

The void created by the resignation of Administrator Robert P. Nimmo on Oct. 4, 1982, which existed until the appointment of his successor Harry N. Walters did not appear to have had too detrimental an effect on the VA. However, the true effect will be seen when the FY 1984 budget is announced. Administrator Walters has assured the VFW that he is going to take a very active role in the development of the budget between the VA and OMB. Confidential information

from a highly placed VA source indicates that the construction budget will be the largest ever. All reports received from program directors and staffers who have dealt with Administrator Walters are positive and everyone seems encouraged that he is a "take charge" individual who recognizes the debt owed to veterans and the importance of keeping the VA a viable agency.

Following are numerous issues in which the VFW has been heavily involved and reflect accomplishments and concerns.

...everyone seems encouraged that he is a "take-charge" individual who recognizes the debt owed to veterans...

Herbicides: As a result of the resolution passed last August, the VFW has taken the unprecedented legislative position of asking for presumption of service connection by Congress. Although there were some concerns as to the degree of involvement the VFW would have in the development of the epidemiological research after it was transferred to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), personal contact with CDC indicates that, once it is ready to go, it will welcome VFW input and hopes to work closely with major veterans' organizations.

ADP: After almost a year of vacillating by the VA Administrator's office on the automatic data processing program decentralization within the Department of Medicine and Surgery

and, with the insistence of Congress, the VA will start developing its decentralized ADP program. As a result, it is expected that all VA medical facilities will have patient care computer capability within three years.

Security: The need for stronger security at VA medical centers in high density urban areas and especially its impact on the ability to recruit nurses were highlighted at Congressional hearings last fall. A VFW survey of the VA Medical Center in Kansas City, Mo., was used as a prime example of this troublesome problem.

MEDIPP: Much controversy and confusion have developed during the past year regarding the Medical District Initiated Program Planning process and the impact that *proposed* hospital mission changes and sizing plans will have on the local community.

These problems were the direct result of VA Department of Medicine and Surgery (DMS) failure to involve VFW Service Officers and other local leadership as well as the failure at the VA Central Office to keep the National Veterans Service apprised of any problems developing locally traceable to poor communications.

The VFW has supported the initial concept of MEDIPP, but has advised Chief Medical Director Donald L. Custis that it is reserving final judgment until it has had an opportunity to review all the district plans and their impact on the veteran community both at the district and at the local facility level.

Dr. Custis has assured the VFW that it will have an opportunity to review for comment those portions of the proposed district plans which would implement substantial changes before the plans are submitted to the VA Administrator and Congress in final form. At that time, the VFW will be taking into consideration all the con-

The writer directs the VFW National Veterans Service.

cerns expressed by the different departments and will be seeking further input from local leadership in order to assess the plans properly.

DMS Construction Revalidation: Former Administrator Nimmo instituted a revalidation of all future DMS construction programs, starting with FY '84, on the premise that previous criteria used for justifying these projects were not sound.

The VA Revalidation Committee has since revalidated practically all the projects which could have been scheduled for FY '84 and confirmed what the VFW has stated all along: That, with the exception of some fine tuning, the criteria originally used to establish these projects were sound. Consequently, this has placed the Chief Medical Director in a much stronger position on the development and justification of future projects. (This is reflected in the unprecedented large construction budget expected.)

The VFW Employment Awards Program was given a shot in the arm by Commander-in-Chief Currie's strong interest in employment programs. This has resulted in greater attention and emphasis being given to this program by the Chairman and Vice Chairmen and all members of the Civil Service and Employment Committee. Consequently, a drastically improved rate of participation by Departments is expected. In the past, the participation has been 50% or less.

The VFW Employment Manual has been rewritten in an updated and more concise, informative and useful form. It is expected to be ready for the Mid-Winter Conference.

Small Business Administration: The VFW continues to work closely with the SBA in improving its delivery of services to veterans, as evidence by VFW involvement with a special SBA Veteran's Task Force which is beginning to hold workshops specifically geared towards veterans. These efforts will result in more veterans utilizing various SBA programs.

Employment Resolutions: Of the numerous resolutions passed at the 83rd National Convention dealing with employment, several have been accomplished, either through their enactment into law or administrative action taken since their passage last August.

Among the changes sought, passage of Public Law 97-306 gave the Assistant Secretary for Veterans Employ-

A total of \$83 million in claims was recovered from Sept. 1, 1982, to Nov. 30, 1982, by the VFW National Veterans Service for veterans whose applications had been denied by the VA but were reopened by claimants represented by the VFW.

The \$82,421,919 recovered represented 24,143 favorable decisions, compared with 2,366 that were unfavorable. In addition, the 355 favorable insurance claims granted by the VA in Pennsylvania totaled \$644,180. Only 17 were unfavorable.

ment greater control in administering and monitoring the handling of complaints by veterans against federal contractors and placed the Office of Veterans Reemployment Rights under the administrative and functional responsibility of the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans Employment. Public Law 97-362, the Miscellaneous Revenue Act of 1982, reinstated unemployment compensation eligibility to honorably discharged ex-military personnel for a period of 13 weeks.

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This made the total \$83,066,099.

Director Frederico Juarbe points out also that the figures are not complete because some states have sent in no reports and other states' are incomplete.

In August, 1982, a total of 8,644 claims brought by the VFW to the VA were acted on favorably and 892 were rejected. Recoveries amounted to \$31,258,281. Pennsylvania's 95 favorable insurance claims added another \$231,782 recovered.

VFW

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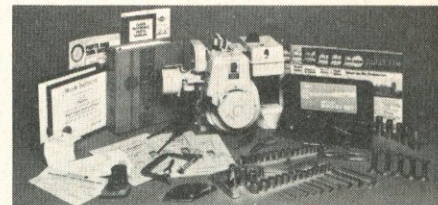
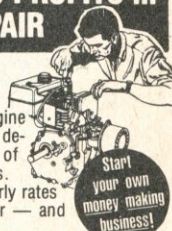
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January (Number in parentheses indicates times Commander has won this honor.)



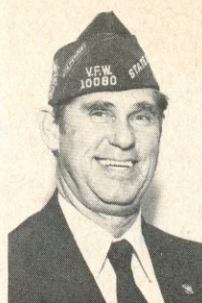
DIV. I
Alfred Kovalcin (3)
Ohio



DIV. II
Robert Carey (4)
Indiana



DIV. III
William L. Dorsey
Missouri



DIV. IV
Thomas E. Ryan (5)
Maryland



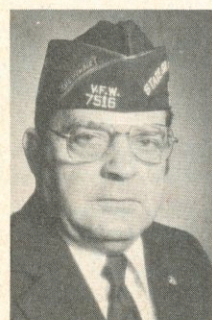
DIV. V
Bobby R. Walls
Virginia

Election Time Approaches

By W. Benny Bachand, Director

As citizens, we have a duty and responsibility to participate in the electoral process to determine the people who will represent us on various governmental levels. Yet statistics show that fewer Americans are voting, but more are complaining about their representation.

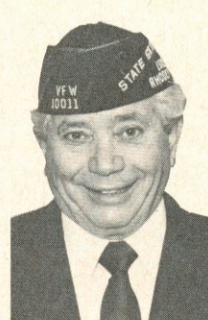
Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars have this same responsibility to elect as officers of their Posts those who will provide the leadership necessary to carry out the goals and objectives of the VFW, but many will fail to attend the meetings and vote.



DIV. VI
Wendal Gills
Arkansas



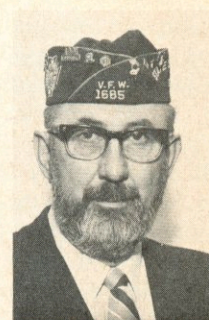
DIV. VII
Paul Aaberg
North Dakota



DIV. VIII
John A. Bucci (2)
Rhode Island



DIV. IX
William E. Jenkins (3)
Delaware



DIV. X
Joe DeCosta (5)
Alaska

order of parade

Standings are based on per capita tax transmittals received at National Headquarters through Jan. 31, 1983.

NATIONAL AVERAGE — 91.63%

1	Alaska	108.99	13	South Dakota	93.72	34	Nevada	90.180
2	Indiana	96.33	14	Ohio	93.61	35	Connecticut	90.177
3	North Dakota	94.89	15	Maine	93.33	36	Wyoming	90.01
4	Minnesota	94.55	16	New Mexico	93.12	37	New York	89.96
5	Rhode Island	94.54	17	Washington	92.97	38	Hawaii	89.48
6	California	94.43	18	Kansas	92.74	39	West Virginia	89.27
7	Michigan	94.38	19	Delaware	92.53	40	Arizona	89.10
8	Missouri	94.16	20	Vermont	92.24	41	Georgia	88.69
9	Virginia	94.14	21	Nebraska	91.92	42	Massachusetts	88.64
10	Louisiana	94.04	22	Arkansas	91.87	43	Iowa	88.57
11	Wisconsin	93.83	23	Florida	91.85	44	Kentucky	88.43
12	Maryland	93.74	24	Mississippi	91.78	45	Oregon	88.30
			25	New Jersey	91.73	46	Oklahoma	86.91
			26	Illinois	91.72	47	South Carolina	86.48
			27	New Hampshire	91.41	48	Utah	85.90
			28	Texas	91.06	49	Tennessee	85.30
			29	Idaho	90.82	50	Dist. of Columbia	84.80
			30	North Carolina	90.81	51	Alabama	82.74
			31	Pennsylvania	90.80	52	Pacific Area	82.22
			32	Montana	90.76	53	Germany	71.08
			33	Colorado	90.50	LAST	Panama Canal	66.07

The Constitution and By-Laws state, "Elective Post officers shall be nominated at the first meeting in April and elected at the next regular meeting in April, due notice of such election to be mailed to all members in good standing.

"In the case of Posts holding only one regular meeting per month, nominations may be made at the March meeting, with nominations to be held open until the election is called at the April meeting."

Election time is approaching. Have you given any thought to whom you would like to nominate or support for the elective officers in your own Post? It is a good bet that as your Post election goes, so will your Post go throughout the following year.

With nearly 10,000 VFW Posts, it is important for you to get involved in the election process to ensure that the leadership on every level of our organization remains strong and capable.

The following questions may help you arrive at a decision about your new leaders:

Do you start a man as Junior Vice Commander, and then elevate him if he does a good job, or do you elect a Commander just because he was not present that night to protect himself?

Do you confine your choice of Post officers to the oldtimers, or do you give the new members a chance to bring new blood, with new, and usually good, ideas into your Post?

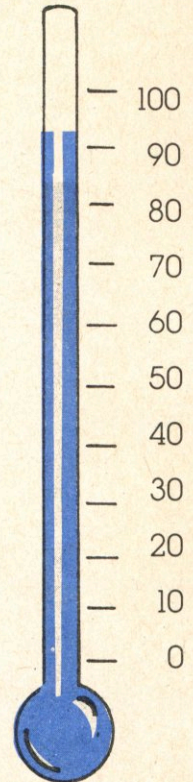
The nomination of Post officers gives you your chance to sound off against the things you like or dislike about the way your Post has been operating in the past, as well as how it will continue to operate in the future.

We must continue membership recruiting for 1983, but we must give some thought to the future if we are to ensure our success.

Certainly all of us give a lot of thought to our local, state and national elections before we go to the polls. Why not give your Post elections some of the same pro-and-con consideration?

Posts of 1,000 Members or More for January will not appear until the April issue because of earlier deadlines established to assure a speedier delivery of the VFW Magazine.

91.63%



In the February issue, Post 9619 should have read Morningside, Md., and Post 6506 should have been Rosedale, Md. Both were listed as Missouri in the Posts of 1,000 Members or More.

national aides-de-camp, recruiting class

The following VFW members have distinguished themselves by winning appointments as National Aides-de-Camp, Recruiting Class, during the month of January, 1983. To be eligible for this award, a member must collect the dues of at least 50 new and/or reinstated members.

James A. Davis, Post 7175, Millington, Tenn.; F. Joseph Dwyer, Post 9631, Manhattan Beach, Calif.; Major Judd L. Clemens, Post 9785, Eagle River, Alaska; George P. Magrath, Post 6712, Revere, Mass.; William P. Ethen, Post 4210, Forest Lake, Minn.; Edgar G. Morrow, Post 3715, Phoenix, Ariz.; Perry Butcher, Post 1064, Huntington, W.Va.; James J. Cepican, Post 5220, Oak Lawn, Ill.; Walter A. Crawford, Post 7686, Alamogordo, N.M.; Paul John Baker, Post 589, Hazleton, Pa.;

Guy R. Granger, Jr., Post 8641, Merrimack, N.H.; Edward J. Damiano, Post 6805, Browns Mills, N.J.; Hubert Phillips, Post 972, Terre Haute, Ind.; Sam K. Tashjy, Post 6694, Dundalk, Md.; Fabian Van Camp, Post 10244, Ashwaubenon, Wis.; Melvin P. Beard, Post 2130, Lake Charles, La.; Ronald Wagner and Manuel Mays, Post 9191, Killeen, Texas; George R. Silvers, Jr., Post 8867, Bricktown, N.J.; Francis L. Neel, Post 9391, Apache, Okla.; Charles E. Hoskins, Post 4428, Plattsburg, Mo.; Wayne E. Willsie, Post 3087, Flint, Mich.; Charles E. Kirkland, Post 7253, Derby, Kan.; Cary J. Keel, Post 1701, Alexander City, Ala.; Harold A. Fletcher, Post 1590, Daytona Beach, Fla.; Fred Bollenberg, Post 3200, Augusta, Ga., and Marvin Burdick, Post 4352, Ketchikan, Alaska.

HI-TECH

Boosts Service to VFW Members

By Warren C. Maus

A look back at the distinguished history of the Veterans of Foreign Wars reveals one important trait which has contributed to the phenomenal success of this proud organization:

The constant dedication to serving the needs of those who gallantly served their country.

Since 1899, the VFW has grown remarkably, both in terms of Post membership and the scope of service its members offered the communities where Posts are located.

Soon after World War II, VFW membership began to escalate rapidly with literally hundreds of new Posts starting up and thousands of new members joining the VFW's ranks each month.

National Headquarters, to accommodate the growing membership and the accompanying paperwork, added more and more staff members. Desirable as it was, growth had created quite a few headaches.

VFW leadership faced a dilemma:

Continue to grow and expenses would grow proportionally. But to stop growing in order to maintain expenses at a constant level would mean losing clout when it counted.

An unlikely hero emerged in the form of a massive mechanical dynamo, complete with blinking lights and a penchant for getting the job done. The Computer Age had dawned at VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Mo.

Since 1965, VFW National Headquarters has put five generations of computer hardware to work, using over 900 software programs in meet-

ing the needs of its growing membership, a roster rapidly approaching 2 million.

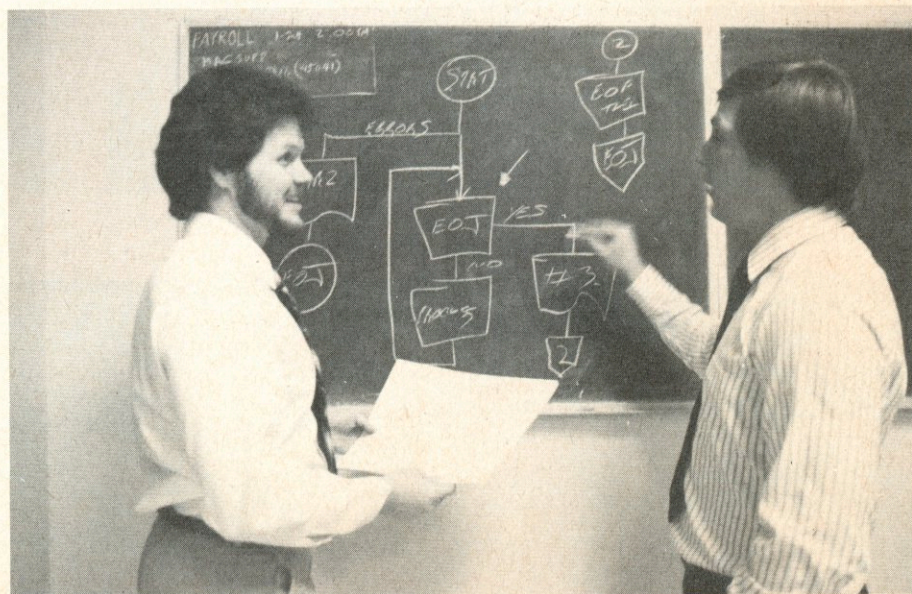
VFW involvement with computers was spurred by the U.S. Post Office's introduction of the five-digit zip code in the early 1960s. At that time, mailing lists for the VFW's 1.2 million members worldwide were maintained on small metal plates about the same size as the familiar military dog tags. To comply with the new postal regulations, each mailing plate would have to be imprinted with the new code.

Quartermaster General J.A. Cheatham and his assistant, Herb Irwin, calculated how long it would take to

stamp each plate and then translated that number into dollars. The cost was astronomical. They reckoned there was surely a better way.

In the early 1960s, computers were still in their infancy, but the technology was growing fast. Their size was enormous; their functions limited; their costs and upkeep almost out of sight. But Cheatham and Irwin sensed computers were the future.

So in late 1964, they went shopping. Together with representatives from International Business Machines, they put together a computer package which marked a watershed in the processing of information by National



Program

Before a computer can work its wizardry, it must be told how to do it and when to do what. Two of the VFW's three programmers work out the "marching orders" for the computer.

Headquarters.

At the heart of the new computer system was the IBM 1440, a central processing unit capable of handling the pencil-pushing drudgery of maintaining the VFW's membership rosters and mailing lists.

From its introduction in 1965 until 1968, IBM 1440 and the VFW made considerable headway in processing information vital to the smooth-running operation of over 9,000 Posts and a membership which had climbed to a new high of over 1.4 million. By 1967, the 1440 had taken on the additional task of maintaining the records of membership dues payments.

According to Walter Bates, the VFW's manager of data processing, the 1440 was an excellent computer. "It did everything we asked of it, with speed and accuracy we'd never experienced before. The only thing it lacked was storage capacity."

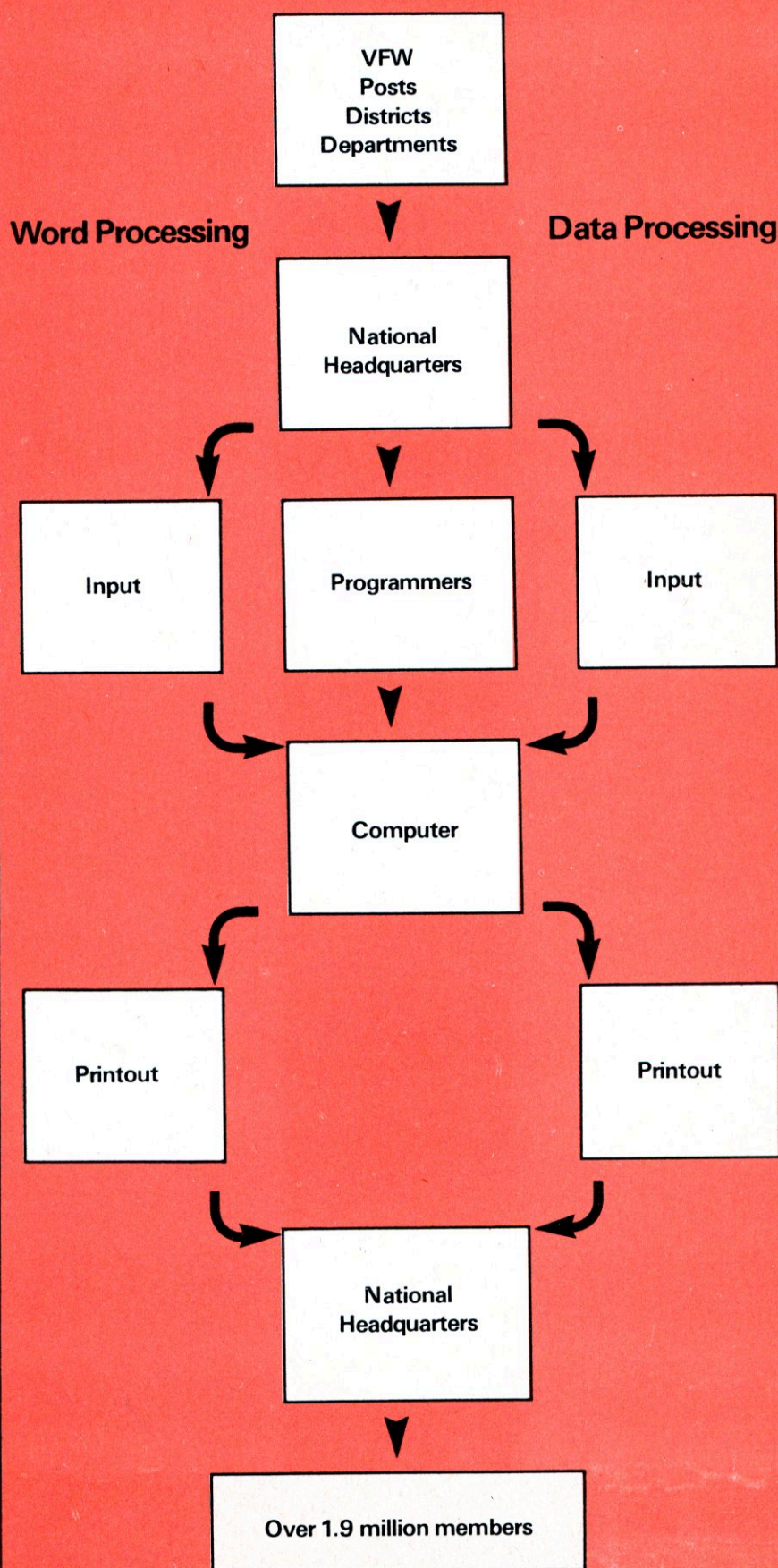
The VFW's steady growth, coupled with new computer applications, prompted the VFW to take another look at the computer market. New computers had more storage capacity, were faster, less cantankerous, more compact and most important, less expensive to operate. With more core memory (storage capacity), the VFW could offer more programs at less cost to the members.

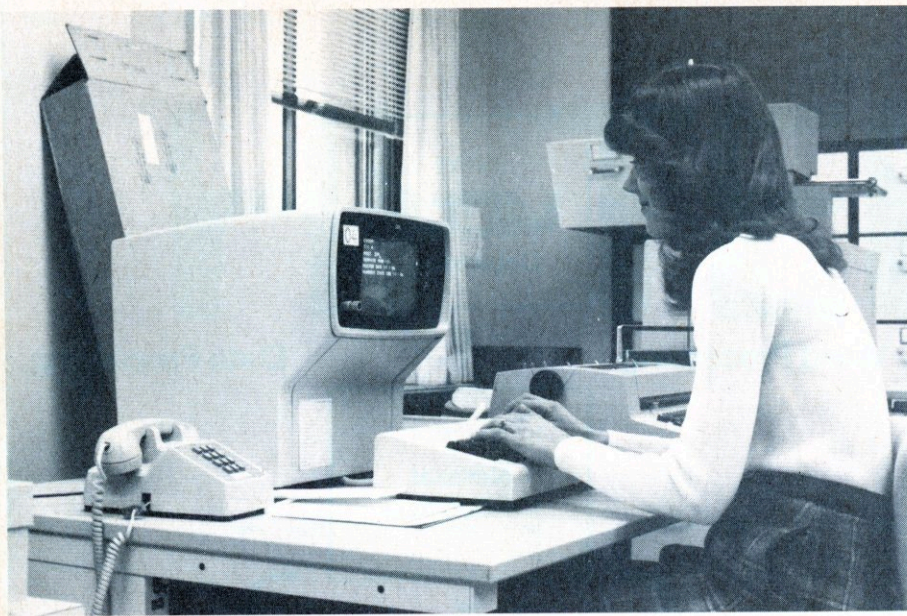
Enter the new kid on the block, the IBM 360-30. In 1968, this state-of-the-art computer found a new home at National Headquarters, permitting the VFW to implement fully the newly-established Hospital Benefits Program at lower costs and with quicker claims service for its subscribers.

Already VFW programmers were busy developing additional uses for the 360-30. In quick succession, the VFW added several new chores to the computer's workload. A Post Officer File kept accurate tabs on information pertaining to key officers of more than 9,200 Posts. Dues notices to individual members, generated at National Headquarters, relieved Post Quartermasters of the task of maintaining individual dues payment logs. The burgeoning problem of keeping up with thousands of requests for VFW supplies by members and Posts was streamlined by a new supply order system.

Membership in the VFW continued to grow by leaps and bounds. By 1972, the 360-30 was starting to reach its information storage capacity limits. It

The Information Cycle





Input

After the program has been debugged, it's ready to go to work. From terminals throughout National Headquarters, information can be entered into the computer's information storage system.

was time to take another look at what the computer marketplace had to offer.

VFW's need for expanded storage capability coincided with a significant development in computer technology: The widespread acceptance by the industry of magnetic tape for data storage.

Prior to magnetic tape, all information processed by the computer was done by feeding keypunched computer cards into a card reader which then processed the information. By comparison, magnetic tapes were easier to handle and store, were faster and more accurate and cheaper. As Bates put it, "We could get a lot more bang for the buck."

What had taken hours to accomplish with computer cards took only minutes with magnetic tapes.

In 1972, the VFW acquired its third computer, the IBM 370-135. Half the size of its predecessor, with more speed and muscle, the 370-135, spinning reels of magnetic tape at mind-boggling rates of speed, was ready to accept anything and everything the VFW could feed it.

The 370-135 also had a feature its older brother didn't have, one which proved to be a great boon to quick and accurate processing of VFW data. With the 360-30, all information had to be keypunched onto computer cards. The

370-135 was equipped with cathode ray tube terminals (CRTs), allowing information to be fed into the computer from work stations throughout the 12 floors of National Headquarters. New information pertaining to any of the VFW's many programs could be fed directly into the computer from any CRT. Within microseconds after entry of data, the new information was available for access by anyone authorized to use it.

More memory in the 370-135 translated to more functions the computer could perform. So in 1972, the VFW put its National Life Insurance Program into the computer. This immediately helped to keep down costs and provide for quicker claims service.

Demand for additional forms for life insurance, including cash value and level term, gave the impetus again to look for a cheaper and faster manner to process information. The newly-developed IBM 370-138 fit the bill and was acquired in 1977.

The 370-138 was a dray horse with thoroughbred speed. In addition to the new insurance programs, it also processed payroll and general ledger records, as well as providing for an expanded membership data base. And all the while, VFW membership was growing, by this time to over 1.8 million.

Irwin and Bates, recognizing the in-

creasing demand for information processing, sought a new unit which would offer even greater speed and accommodate a proposed Post Activity Report record-keeping system.

The result was the acquisition of the IBM 4341, a central processing unit not much larger than a steamer trunk.

In spring, 1982, the system was ready to go. Since June, all Department officials have received monthly computer printouts detailing who is doing what at the VFW's nearly 10,000 Posts. Planning and forecasting have been greatly enhanced with the addition of the 4341. All credited Post activities are put into the computer and processed in microseconds.

While VFW members are aggressively carrying out this year's theme of Strength Through Service, the VFW leadership knows the substance of that strength is based in total membership. The more members the VFW has, the more likely the organization is to be heard when it has something to say. In its efforts to reach more potential members out of the 16 million or so veterans who are eligible, the VFW is



Processing

All information entered from terminals is then stored on magnetic tapes until it's ready to be used. The VFW computer operator loads one of the magnetic tape discs which contain the names of all members on the mailing list for VFW Magazine.

beginning to market its product in imaginative and innovative ways.

Bob Bethel, National Post Records and Inspection Department Director, and Adjutant General Howard Vander Clute, saw the implementation of word processing functions as an essential complement to data processing. Last year, the VFW installed the IBM 5520 Word Processing System, complete with five access terminals and capable of turning out more than 500 pieces of personalized mail a day.

Bethel predicts the new word processing system as an important tool in making the VFW's Political Action Committee an even more energetic force in protecting veterans' rights.

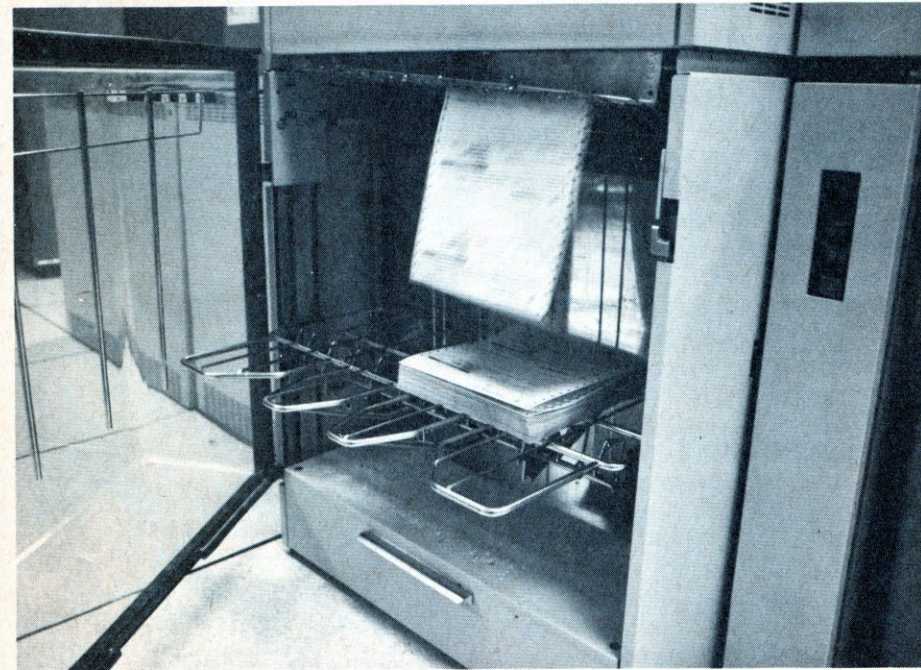
"The sheer workload of correspondence connected with fund-raising for our PAC would make it nearly impossible without our word processing system," Bethel said. He portends tremendous growth of the PAC, thanks in part to the new word processing system.

VFW's word and data processing systems have several proposed uses coming up in the near future. Later this year, the Ladies Auxiliary plans to tap in to the system to aid in servicing its growing membership.

Presently, VFW programmers are working to form an integrated data base system that will provide instantaneous recovery of information to serve the VFW membership more effectively.

Computers have served the VFW well from National Headquarters all the way to the Post level. No member fails to benefit from them. From insurance claims to supply requisitions, computers have aided all VFW members in meeting their needs at every level of the organization.

VFW



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- _____ Army Commendation
- _____ Army Good Conduct
- _____ Asiatic-Pacific Campaign
- _____ Bronze Star
- _____ China Service (N, M/C, C/G)
- _____ Coast Guard Good Conduct
- _____ Distinguished Flying Cross
- _____ European-African-M.E. Campaign
- _____ Korean Service
- _____ Marine Good Conduct
- _____ Navy Commendation
- _____ Navy Good Conduct
- _____ Navy & Marine Corps Medal
- _____ Navy Reserve Medal
- _____ National Defense Service
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Canteen

By Missie Parker-O'Toole

If you think finding a needle in a haystack is an accomplishment, just imagine recovering a World War II veteran's canteen for him nearly 40 years after he lost it in combat in the Pacific theater.

That is exactly what happened to Bob Barnett, of Anmoore, W. Va., and a lot of VFW members from Post 5266 in Morristown, Tenn.; Post 2372 in Newport and Post 9683 in Bulls Gap traveled Jan. 15 by chartered bus for 10 hours in a snow storm to make sure the veteran got his canteen.

Not only that but Post 5266's Honor Guard, under the command of Gale Jarnigan, made the trip, too, to assure the occasion's proper ritualistic dignity.

The ceremonies that marked the official return of the canteen to Barnett were conducted in the Home of Post 573 in Clarksburg, W. Va., with Post Commander Tim Morris in charge of the proceedings.

The story of Barnett's canteen and its discovery really goes back to 1947 when Don Cowan, owner of the Morristown War Surplus Store, came into possession of the soft metal bottle that had been made in 1918.

Barnett's name and hometown were carved into the canteen along with all the stops he made during World War II. Cowan began searching for Barnett. The quest continued for 35 years.

"The big story was how can you be lost for 35 years," Barnett said the night before the ceremony. "I don't know how my negligence in losing the canteen could have brought this all about."

The canteen was issued to Barnett when he entered the army during World War II, but sometime in late January, 1945, he lost it and a hunting knife which he carried on his belt. "I can't answer how I lost it," he said, but it was after a combat action, he remembers.

Barnett, 62, says he first heard about Don Cowan's search for him five or six years ago, but thought it was a hoax. "I just ignored it," he said.

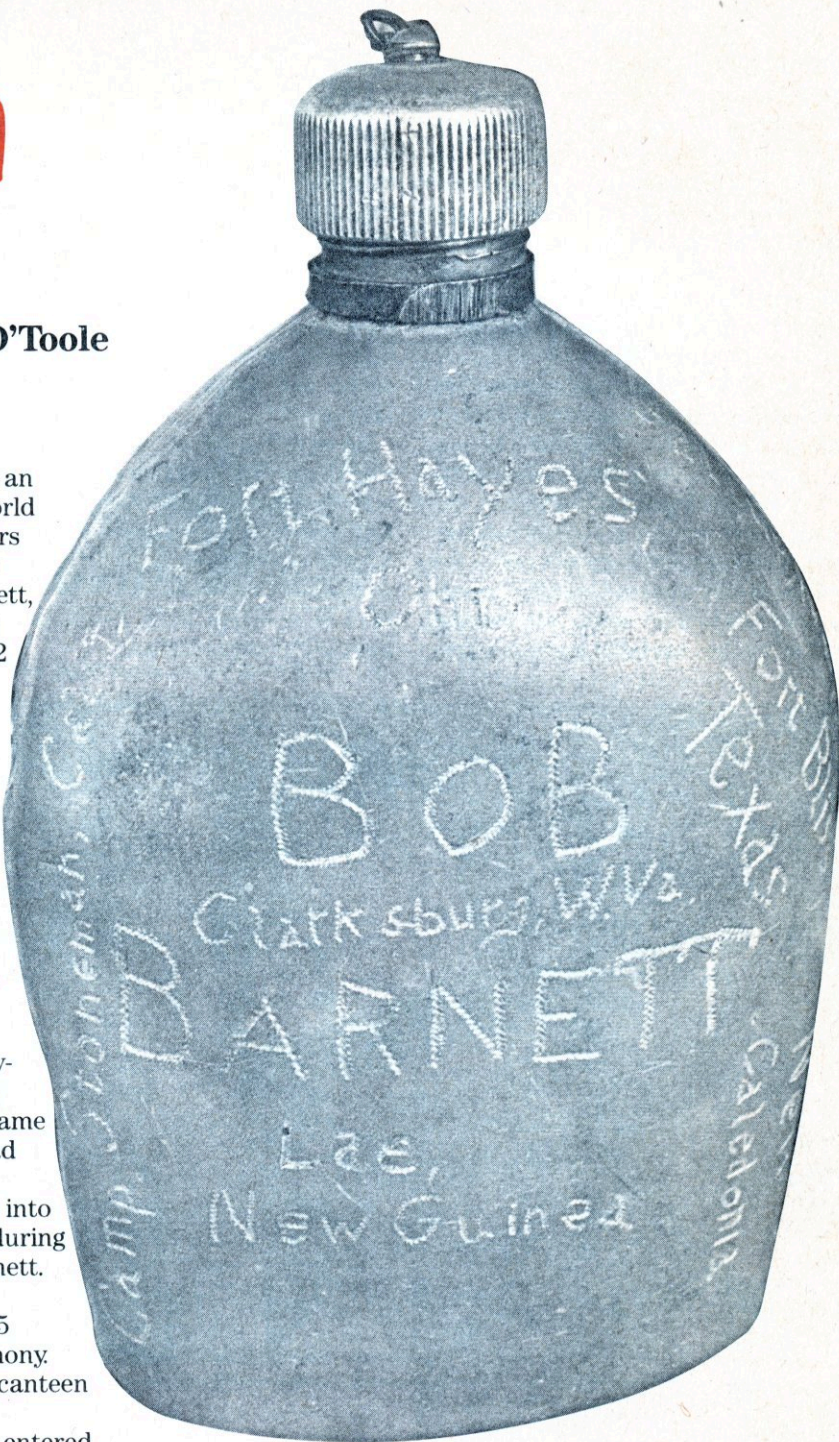
People going into Cowan's Morristown, Tenn., store were always asked if they were from West Virginia and if so, did they know Barnett. Barnett, who

owned a service station in Anmoore, says, "Different people coming through would stop at the station and tell me about it," said the canteen's owner, "but I didn't pay any attention."

Then last November, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Exline of Elizabeth, W. Va., happened to visit the surplus store after a light in their camper broke. They were in East Tennessee for the Smoky Mountain Field Trials in Bybee. Being a postal worker in West Virginia, Mrs. Exline said she thought she could find

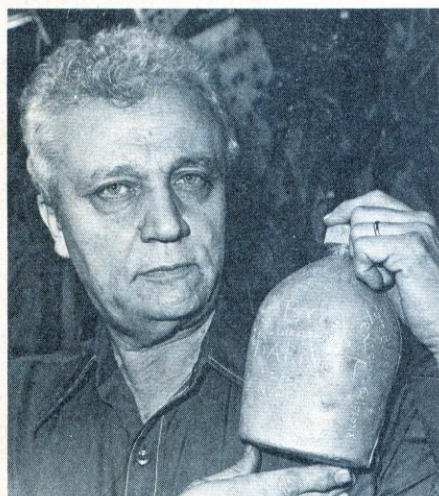
Barnett. "When I got home, I went to the library in Elizabeth—we have all the phone books from the entire state—and I found three Bob Barnetts listed. One of them had an Anmoore address, and I had seen Anmoore on the canteen. I guess the people in Tennessee didn't know Anmoore is a little town here. I called him, and he said he was the owner of the canteen," said Mrs. Exline.

Making the presentation to Barnett was Don Cowan, who was accom-





Don Cowan and Bob Barnett meet for the first time. Cowan, a surplus dealer in Morristown, Tenn., returned Barnett's canteen to him in Clarksburg, W.Va., after 35 years. (Teresa Moore/Citizen Tribune Photo.)



Don Cowan, a surplus dealer in Morristown, Tenn., holds the canteen he returned to its owner, Bob Barnett in Clarksburg, W.Va. He had sought Barnett for 35 years. (Chuck Hale/Citizen Tribune Photo.)

panied by his brother Eugene, a Post 5266 member and other VFW members, B.F. Clubb, C.A. Shockley, Don Brooks, Robert Jarnagin, Calvin Sipe, Gale Jarnagin, George Lowe, Fred Bishop, Jack Gladson, Joseph Kimbrough, Fuller Reed, Glenn Mills, Jack Holt, Charlie Southerland, Bert Crittenden, Ben White, Earl Susong, Claude Ashley, Charles Paxton and Bill Inman.

With the return of the canteen, old memories, good and bad, came back to haunt the owner. "It's all memories to me. I don't seem to forget too easy," said Barnett.

Barnett says he was drafted on Dec. 28, 1942, and left for the service on Jan. 4, 1943. In July, 1943, he was hospitalized in Gallup, N.M., for a sensitivity to a sulfadiazene medication. "I spent 103 days in the hospital," he said. After that he spent two years one month and five days in foreign service.

"We lost three men out of 1,008 in the battalion in '44 and '45," he said. Barnett was in the 518th AAA gun battalion serving under a Maj. McCab from Texas and Sgt. Stanley Milanowski from Boston. Neither man could be located for the presentation ceremony.

Barnett says he still dreams about his service years. "I hallucinate about a field of Japanese bodies. I can remember the site and the smell of bodies deteriorating. I also had a buddy who shot a Japanese and lost his rifle at the site. We went back to get the rifle and lying next to it was a skull. A wild boar had gotten the Japanese body. There was nothing but bones left. If it had been an American soldier the same thing would have happened," he remembers.



In addition to getting his canteen back, Barnett was made an honorary citizen of the City of Morristown and the State of Tennessee. Mrs. Exline was given a key to the City of Morristown and all the Morristown VFW delegation were made honorary deputy sheriffs by Harrison County, W. Va., Sheriff Nelson Blankenship.

Following the ceremony, Barnett displayed some of the mementos he collected during the war. He also had the knife with which he carved his service itinerary in the canteen.

VFW



Members of Post 5266 in Morristown Tenn., pose before boarding the bus for Clarksburg, W.Va., with some of the 30 boxes of Kentucky Fried Chicken donated for the honor guard's trip. (Teresa Moore/Citizen Tribune Photo.)

We All Prayed When Robby Risner Was Shot Down

By Texe W. Marrs



My eyes misted as I sat intently listening to the guest speaker for our banquet. I felt like crying, but I was simply too embarrassed to let myself go. "What's wrong with me?" I asked myself. "Why am I so moved by what this speaker is saying?"

Brig. Gen. Robinson Risner, USAF (Ret.) was the guest speaker. As he stood there before the crowd of about 300, I listened carefully to his measured words about God, patriotism and country. I had heard these same words before, perhaps in a different form, uttered by other speakers who periodically addressed one of the social functions of our ROTC unit. But somehow, the words seemed different coming from Robby Risner. The other listeners could feel it, too. They sat as if glued to their seats, moistness glistening in their eyes, as Risner's calm and sincere voice echoed through the public address system.

He told of his experiences as a POW captive of the North Vietnamese. For seven long years, Robby had suffered torture and ill treatment. Three years he had spent in solitary confinement. He had been forced to watch helplessly as fellow American prisoners were humiliated, brutalized and painfully tormented by their Communist captors with unspeakable acts of degradation. Through it all, Risner emphasized, he had never, for a moment doubted that people back home were praying for him and the other prisoners. Their faith in God and their belief in American ideals, said the ex-serviceman, sustained the POWs in their anguish.

"I found God and country becoming almost synonymous," he said quietly and with conviction.

I thought back to the time I had first heard the name Robby affectionately used. It was Sept. 16, 1965, at 5:30 p.m. I remember it distinctly.

At the time, I was a young enlisted man, on duty at Korat Air Base, Thailand. I had volunteered to serve in Vietnam and the Air Force had sent me instead to Thailand. I was disappointed that my destination wasn't Vietnam because I wanted deeply to help my country and I felt that only serving in Vietnam would enable me to do this.

In 1965, there were few anti-war protesters and almost every serviceman felt the Vietnam War was both necessary and a campaign against the evils of Communism. It was only

later, in 1968 and afterwards, that the massive anti-Vietnam War movement began to gather steam and cause most Americans to reconsider U.S. involvement in that strife-torn Asian nation.

But in 1965, the conflict was felt by a majority of Americans to be important for the future of democracy and as a test of our will-power versus that of the Communists. It was against this background of public opinion that I had volunteered to go and do my part.

When I arrived in Thailand, I was surprised to learn that the bases in that country, often called the "hub" of Southeast Asia, were the primary centers for much of the air war conducted against the Communists. For instance, about 80% of the bombing of North Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia originated from U.S. air bases in Thailand.

My job on Korat was that of assistant to two chaplains, one a Roman Catholic priest and the other a Protestant minister. Although the chapel staff worked almost 80 hours a week—our typical work schedule was 7 a.m. to 7 p.m., seven days a week—it was sometimes hard for us to feel that we, too, were part of the overall war effort. We did hear from chapel visitors and members of the congregation about some of the intense events going on—about the planes leaving each day, loaded with bombs and armaments, and about their returning, sometimes with shell holes and in battle scarred condition. The helicopter crews told us of harrying rescues they had made and of the dangers they faced on those desperate occasions when they were called upon to save a downed pilot.

But, all in all, support personnel like us were separated from the actual war effort. It was the pilots who were the warriors, braving the increasingly horrendous fire of the surface to air missiles and the anti-aircraft flak shells. We, the support personnel, were almost in another world, a distant place where the risk and danger of combat were far from being our everyday concern.

Occasionally a pilot was shot down and did not return. The chaplains mentioned it in awed tones and we conducted a memorial or remembrance service at the chapel. These were sad, momentous occasions but still, somehow, there was no recogni-



Robinson Risner meets well-wishers at a Cannon Air Force Base, N.M., ceremony honoring former prisoners of war.

tion on my part that this was a *war zone*, an area where hostile armed conflict was going on.

I believe many of the other support people—cooks, administrative airmen, personnel clerks, supply specialists and others felt the same. This was a war of the Pilots vs. Them, not of the entire U.S. Air Force against the enemy. Other than the enlisted ground crews who worked directly with the combat pilots, support personnel just didn't feel as though they were part of the action. It was as if we were innocent bystanders, spectators from the box seats.

Soon we became inured to the sounds of F-105 fighter aircraft taking off and landing, and the occasional word that a pilot was lost. None of it meant much to us personally.

Then Sept. 16, 1965, arrived, a hot steamy day, typical of Southeast Asia. I was busy in the chapel, a crude, hut-like building with screens instead of windows and a tin roof. Banging away on the typewriter, I glanced up as Fr. Vincent Meskenas, our priest, came in the door. A look of utter gloom was on his face. But more than gloom, there was an air of grim determination about him.

"Robby's been shot down," he said. "We just got the word over at the commander's office. The North Vietnamese have him." He sat down quietly across from me and stared out the screened window, his face a picture of anguish. "This war," he said

calmly, but passionately, "is getting to be a real sacrifice for America."

I didn't know what to say. For a moment, I was silent; then I asked, "You mean Col. Robinson Risner's gone down, the squadron commander of the 67th?" He didn't respond, just kept staring blankly out the window.

"He's really well liked and respected, isn't he?" I added. I had become so nervous and upset I felt I had to keep talking or else my mind would crack. I had never felt this way before. Until now, the war had been an impersonal event. The pilots we lost were just so many unknown faces to me. But Risner was different. Korat Airbase was a small place—only about 1,000 troops. Word spread fast among the enlisted men about who the "good" officers were and who were the "bad" ones. Risner was definitely in the first category: a man of great integrity and concern for others. Although I had never personally met him, I had seen him frequently around the small base enclosure. Just passing him on the board walkways on base that substituted for sidewalks gave a person the feeling that Robinson Risner was a *good* man, a man you wanted to work with and for.

This was the second time Risner had been shot down over enemy territory. The first time he had been picked up by rescuers. It so happened that news crews were on hand at the time and the next issue of *Time*

(continued on page 48)



In Any Language New Orleans Is Great

Glamorous, exciting New Orleans, with its old Southern charm and French character, is only a few months away for VFW members who intend to take part in the 84th National Convention from Aug. 12 to 19.

To make sure you are properly registered, for a saving of \$2, be sure to fill out the accompanying coupon and send it in as soon as possible. Early registration is vital.

Another thing to remember is that each Post is required by a 1977 By-Law change to register one delegate.

Now if you are going to New Orleans, it might not be a bad idea to familiarize yourself with some of the local lingo.

Some of the expressions probably are not heard anywhere else and here are a few of them.

For example "banquette" looks as if it might be the misspelling of a word VFW members by now know all about. Well, in New Orleans and spelled like

that, it is a sidewalk. If you thought it meant a fancy dinner, served French style, you were wrong. In French, it's bench.

According to the Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission, the term came to be used for sidewalks because in the early days the city's wooden sidewalks were elevated above the muddy streets.

One word that appears frequently is not of French origin. It is "bayou," originally a Choctaw Indian term for a river or creek. Bayou is defined as a sluggish stream having its rise in the overflow of a river or the drainage of a marsh.

"Beignet," a French word for fritter, is served at the French Market and a lot of other places in New Orleans. This is a square doughnut without a hole, covered with powdered sugar and served with "café au lait," which is a delicious drink itself—coffee usually laced with chicory and prepared with

hot milk.

Another coffee drink is "café brûlot," which means in French burning hot coffee. It is a festive drink of coffee, spices, orange peel and flaming brandy.

Frequently you will hear the expression "Cajun." It is the accepted name for Acadian, a group of French-speaking people driven by the English from their homes in what is now Nova Scotia, a Canadian Maritime province, which was called Acadia when it was under French rule 250 years ago. The Acadians' plight was told in Longfellow's poem "Evangeline." Many settled in south and central Louisiana.

Crawfish officially is "crayfish," but any way you spell it, this denizen of the mud of fresh water streams is a New Orleans delicacy. For five or six months in the spring, they are harvested and cooked in several different ways.

One word that is applied frequently

in Louisiana is "Creole." This means descendants of French and Spanish settlers of south Louisiana. It comes from a Spanish word meaning "child of the colony" and is used to describe New Orleans food, produce and architecture.

Although the VFW National Convention will be held long after the New Orleans Carnival season, there might still be a few "doubloons" around as souvenirs. These coin-like trinkets are tossed to the crowds by people riding parade floats. Many persons have valuable collections of them.

A New Orleans delicacy is "gumbo." This is a thick soup usually featuring shrimp, oysters, crabs and succulent flavorings and spices.

A Cajun term that means "a little something extra" is "lagnaippe." According to the dictionary it is American French and derived from American Spanish. Whatever its provenance, it can be good for you as a visitor to New Orleans. For instance, if you get 14 oysters and are charged for 12, that is lagnaippe.

Just in case you have ever wondered what Mardi Gras means, besides a lot of fun for tourists in the late winter, it is a French word for "fat Tuesday," the last day of the Carnival season and the day before Ash Wednesday, which is the start of the 40 days of Lenten rigors.

If you don't have a lot of time for eating while the Convention sessions are in progress, get a "po-boy" sandwich. If it looks like "poor boy," it comes by the name naturally. The expression grew out of the Depression of the

1930s when money was in short supply and food was cheap. A meal in itself, the sandwich is served on a long French roll and filled with a variety of meats and cheeses. Chances are you won't go home without having at least one.

The original city of New Orleans is now called the "Vieux Carre," which means "old square" in French. This French Quarter is on a rectangular plot of land bordered by Canal and Esplanade Streets and Rampart Street and the Mississippi River. Needless to say, you won't miss it, but to make sure you won't, send in the coupon.

Now that you have had some of New Orleans's favorite expressions explained, how about exploring some of the area's favorite seafood.

The Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission boasts that "if it swims, we have it in New Orleans."

Right up near the top of the most favored is Redfish, a year around specialty that has forced Red Snapper off the menus in many restaurants. Its texture is firm, its taste delicious and its price reasonable.

Redfish is sold fresh or frozen, as fillets, whole cleaned or steaked. It is used in many Creole dishes. It is bronze colored and has a large black spot on its tail.

Flounder, a member of the flat fish family, has one side black and the other white. It is readily available in spring and fall. It is served baked or broiled.

Louisiana's oysters are regarded as

America's best. The season is year around and many of the country's markets are supplied with the state's oysters.

America's favorite seafood is the shrimp. Its taste is distinctive, its meat tender and juicy. The Gulf of Mexico and the waters at the mouth of the Mississippi are some of the principal shrimp-producing areas of the country.

Shrimp is in season from May through December. It is marketed whole, raw peeled, cooked peeled and deveined. It can be cooked just about any way imaginable — and Creole cooks have thought of a lot of them.

The most important freshwater fish is catfish. Once looked down on, it is becoming one of the most popular of Southern dishes.

Snapper is available sporadically throughout the year and it is one of the largest and most important of the seafoods. Its color is bright red to the scales and the fish can be baked, steamed, boiled or broiled.

Speckled trout is featured on every New Orleans menu in various forms. A mainstay of the Louisiana marketplace, it is served as trout almondine, meuniere or stuffed. It is a beautiful silver colored fish with many black spots over its entire body.

The local Blue Crab is considered one of Louisiana's finest products. It abounds in the brackish coastal waters. There are many ways to prepare this delight, but one of the favorites is the entire claw shelled with one piece of the pincher left to hold it neatly for cocktails.

VFW

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Hope Restored By National Home

Jerry Shelton is pensive as he looks back down the road that brought him and his three little girls to live in California II Cottage at the VFW National Home.

There was a time when he had it all: family, a good job, a nice home. He had worked hard to get where he was, starting out in the world as a 15-year-old bent on joining the Navy and fighting for his country.

In those days World War II was raging, and he set out on his own to enlist in the Navy with a Texas-style tall tale about his age. He made the grade as a sailor and was off the coast of Japan by the time he was 17. He served for 13½ years, through the Korean War.

After his naval discharge, Jerry joined the Army and became a pilot. He was discharged from this branch of service in March, 1960, only to return in 1966 to train helicopter pilots for 2½ years during the Vietnam War.

Following this, Jerry went into public relations and had a good job with a large corporation in Houston through the 1970s.

Ready for a change, Jerry decided to try trucking. He built his business into a fleet of 11 heavy hauling diesels. All was going as planned. His wife and children were secure; he knew how to run his new business profitably. The future was nothing but promising.

Then the roof fell in. On day while Jerry was driving, he had a serious heart attack that led to open heart surgery in February, 1981. In and out of the hospital, he was near death when his young wife passed away on Christmas Eve of that year. This dreadful news was kept from him until he

was well enough to be told.

Eventually home and recuperating from his illness and the emotional shock of losing his wife, Jerry came to realize that he was not able physically to handle his trucking firm, a huge monetary investment. Without the proper guidance, the business and equipment deteriorated.



Jerry and his girls.

Jerry eventually lost his business. Faced with mountains of medical bills, he was down to his last dime. He wondered how in the world he was going to keep his three little girls together with him.

Then six months after his wife's death, his sister, a very active VFW Ladies Auxiliary member and past officer, and her husband, a Post Service Officer, suggested he look into coming to the VFW National Home.

He had known about the Home as long as he could remember. His family had been active in the VFW and its Auxiliary for many years. He himself was a member of Bryan, Texas, Post 4692. Like other members, he thought

of the Home at Buddy Poppy time, when Seals came out, or during special projects his Post sponsored from time to time. He never considered that one day he would live there.

Jerry was facing a dead end. He knew the girls could be cared for by relatives, but they would have to be split up. He was out of money, and just about out of hope.

As he thought more about the Home and its Natural Family Program, Jerry decided that was "what I was in the Army for and what me and my family have worked for in the VFW—so why not? My rent was past due...it came just in the nick of time!"

In June, 1982, Jerry and his three daughters, from 6 to 9, made the move all the way from Bryan to Eaton Rapids, Mich.

What little they had left had already arrived on campus when they first caught sight of what would be their new home.

The girls have adjusted well, and love to play in the Michigan snow, Jerry says with a smile.

"They went out the first morning there was a heavy frost and scraped it off the ground and stuck it in the freezer to save," he adds.

A VFW membership means more to Jerry Shelton today than ever before. It isn't "sitting around the Post bar sharing war stories with a bunch of old cronies."

VFW members do more than the general public ever realizes. They sponsor community projects and functions, visit the sick and disabled in hospitals, encourage patriotism and help dependents of America's deceased and disabled veterans through the VFW National Home.



'Thank God For the VFW And Ladies Auxiliary'

By Jerry Shelton

I would like to express my appreciation to all the members of the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary for what they have done for me and what they really stand for.

I can think of no other words that come close to our motto To Honor the Dead by Helping the Living. Thanks to you, Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Ladies Auxiliary, I have been able to keep my little family, Tammie, 9; Tina, 7, and Terrie, 6, together since my wife passed away.

Let me share with you some of the tragedy that led to our coming to live at the VFW National Home in June, 1982.

In March, 1980, I had a heart attack. The insurance company asserted it was a pre-existing condition, refused to pay and cancelled my insurance. After that, my health continued to deteriorate and in February, 1981, open heart surgery was required, followed by multiple complications. Then my wife, Nona Sue, passed away on Christmas Eve in 1981. Because of my health for the past two years, the strain had taken its toll of Mrs. Shelton. She passed away while I was in the intensive care coronary unit and I not expected to live.

All hope seemed to be lost and with everything that could be sold and all money gone, keeping us all together seemed hopeless. then my VFW Post 4692 in Bryan, Texas, stepped in and said "Jerry, quit worrying—we are going to take care of you and the girls." A special meeting of the membership was called and the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Mich., contacted. Post Members packed all our belongings in a U-Haul truck, with Jim Saunders, Post Service Officer, driving the truck to the VFW Home. The girls and I were placed aboard a plane and flown to Detroit, where we were met by Sue Shoultz, of the VFW National Home.

When we arrived here our belongings had already been unloaded in the house we now call home. Groceries had already been placed in the cupboard and the beds with clean linen were made. In no way can I describe in words the feelings of relief we felt at having a place to stay, and knowing that someone really cared. All I can say is: Thank God for the VFW and all it stands for.

Because of the VFW, my three little girls and I are together here at the VFW National Home and can remain together here until they are grown and I will be with them as long as God wills that I should live. If that time comes before they are grown, I can rest assured that the VFW is keeping them together, caring and educating them to live good useful lives. Thank God for the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary.

I have been a member of the VFW for many years along with my sisters, brothers-in-law, cousins and 75-year-old parents. We have all been active in supporting VFW projects, especially the VFW National Home.

My family is only one of the many families and orphaned children who live here at the VFW National Home, and have lived here over the past 57 years. Through the efforts and work of the VFW, and the Ladies Auxiliary, this Home has been able to care for many and will continue to care for many more in the future.

So in the future when someone makes a remark about the VFW or asks, "What's that?", be proud, stand tall. Let them know what it's all about TO HONOR THE DEAD BY HELPING THE LIVING.

VFW

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For an MIA-Wife, the Heart Is a Lonely Hunter

By Theresa Ann White

Nancy Nystrom chooses to be an MIA wife. According to the government, she is a widow. Her husband, a Navy pilot missing since 1966, has been classified as presumed dead.

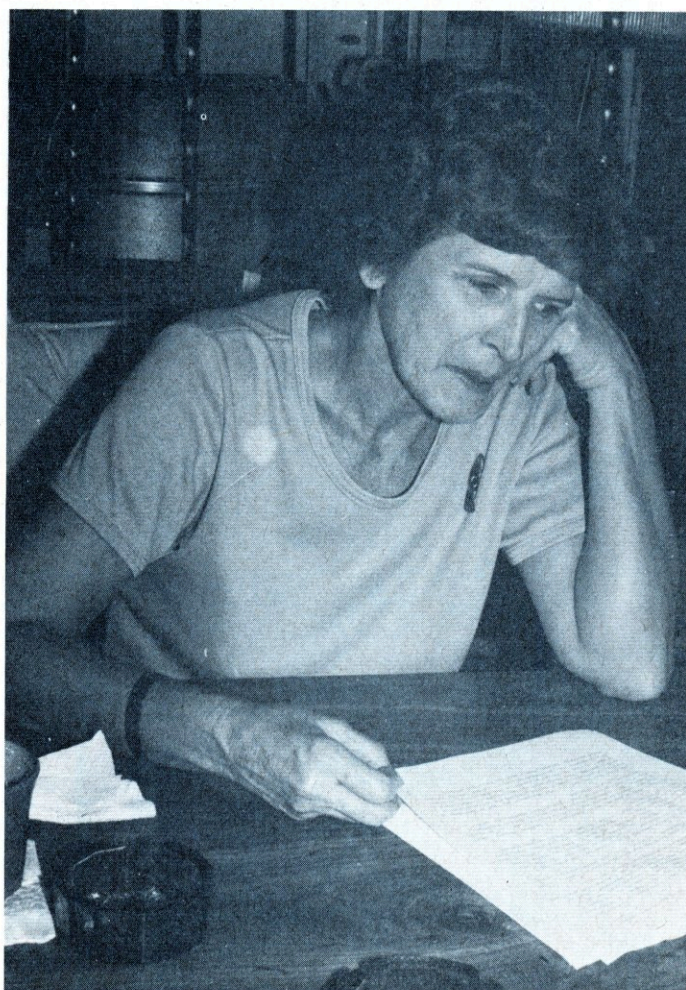
Mrs. Nystrom does not accept the government's verdict. She called it "an expedient measure to put it in the past and forget about it. It didn't solve a thing. They are still missing. They just wiped him off the books."

The status of her husband, Capt. Bruce August Nystrom, was first posted as missing in action in December, 1966, after he was shot down by enemy groundfire in the Red River Delta region of North Vietnam. At the time, Nystrom had devoted 20 years to the U.S. Navy. He was scheduled to be relieved of duty three weeks after his disappearance.

Awaiting him were two options, post-graduate school or the command of an air wing. In Jacksonville, Fla., Nystrom's wife and three children were awaiting a reunion. He was only 39 years old then.

The Nystrom children are grown now. The daughters carry another's name. The son has chosen an insecure future in show business finding bit parts in TV soap operas from his California address.

Nancy Nystrom, always an energetic woman, has not wasted away in the spacious split-level home that she and Bruce built 20 years ago. "I vowed



from the very beginning this was not going to destroy me. I would not let it. I had to make the time count for something worthwhile," she said. "It had to have meaning. Otherwise, what was the point?"

She did not let her husband's disappearance diminish her. In the years immediately after learning of his aircraft crash, Mrs. Nystrom returned to college and obtained a bachelor of fine arts degree. She was instrumen-

tal in establishing a Friends of the Fine Arts auxiliary at Jacksonville University, her alma mater. She participated in the development of the citywide Arts Assembly program. But years ago, she stopped painting for her pleasure.

There is an aura of grief that moves with her. Her laughter often seems controlled, rarely a spontaneous overflow. Bitterness and anger do not become Nancy Nystrom, a lovely woman with soft eyes and a soft voice. But those traits daily become more apparent. She has grown in strength and resolution while at the same time becoming undone by frustration and loneliness.

In 1970, Mrs. Nystrom joined hundreds in Washington for the first ad hoc meeting of what became the National League of Families of Americans Missing or Prisoners in Southeast Asia, usually called the National League.

Her home is headquarters for both the Northeast Florida Chapter and the state chapter of the National League.

As coordinator, Mrs. Nystrom is immersed in the awareness that her husband is missing, perhaps dead, somewhere 8,000 miles away. The dining room and den are stockpiled with boxes containing tee shirts with the POW/MIA National League logo, bumper stickers, bracelets, red ribbons, pins. She has files of National League literature, stacks of petitions

addressed to the current ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (SRV).

The petitions request an accounting of the nearly 2,500 Americans who did not return from Southeast Asia after the Paris Peace Accords were signed in 1973. Mrs. Nystrom believes the petitions are having an affect on SRV government leaders. She cites the recent visit to Hanoi by a National League delegation as a precedent, one that can be attributed partially to the deluge of petitions that have been forwarded by the league for the last several years.

Mrs. Nystrom has developed a strategy for obtaining an accounting. It reflects what has been formulated by the league, dealing with the SRV on a people-to-people level, not through political maneuvers.

She elaborates: "They (SRV) don't like the fact that our government tells them they are wrong. They have to have the capability and the availability of saving face; that is of crucial interest to the Oriental. I think there has to be an in-depth knowledge of how they think," she said.

"You've got to know the rules to play their game. They want money. They want to rebuild their country."

A few months ago, Hanoi forwarded the remains of five people believed to be American MIAs from the Vietnam War. When presented with the news release, Mrs. Nystrom quickly brought a hand to her face, shielding her eyes, turning her head. Her next words concerned an issue irrelevant to the newspaper's disclosure.

What appears a paradox—her undulation in the facts and hypotheses of the unaccounted for Americans and her brusque dismissal of the news report—is at first baffling. But by considering that one of those may be the remains of Capt. Nystrom, then an explanation for her behavior appears. She might soon hear that her husband is not missing in action, he is dead. For the past 16 years, Mrs. Nystrom has denied the government's decision by presuming that her husband is alive.

However, she has "many, many times just point blank faced it. The possibilities are infinite that he did not survive." But Mrs. Nystrom labels herself an MIA-wife. That designation precludes the death of her husband.

To some, her devotion to a man who may be very likely deceased is



"They (the SRV) don't like the fact that our government tells them they are wrong...saving face is of crucial interest to the Oriental... they want money. They want to rebuild their country."

seen as an obsession. Their attitude is perhaps self-revelatory—a comment on their definition of love. There have been others, said Mrs. Nystrom, who have called her and others 'professional MIA-wives', insinuating that these women choose to believe in the existence of their husbands simply in order to receive survivors' benefits. If they accept the government's pronouncement that their husbands are dead, and remarry, then those government allotments automatically cease.

Nancy Nystrom maintains that she needs to know. "I've known my husband since high school and I don't feel I can close the door on my life and start a new one until I know what has happened to him." She thinks "there is a chance" Bruce Nystrom may be alive, albeit under cruel circumstances. She draws that optimism from where hope springs eternal as well as from historical data. There are the numerous live sighting reports, seemingly validated by poly-

graphs, from refugees of Vietnam and adjacent countries. There are encouraging statements from the Defense Intelligence Agency. There is the French naval pilot, captured in 1954 in the midst of the French-Indochina War. In January, 1980, he eluded his captors and made his way to Thailand. He had been a POW for 26 years, 10 less than Capt. Nystrom, if Nystrom is alive.

Nancy Nystrom does not think the SRV are holding Americans prisoner as a method of vengeance, repaying the pain of war by causing emotional anguish in the relatives of the missing. "They are much too pragmatic for that," she said. "Because human life does not have that much value to the Oriental mind or to the Communists. I think that is looking at it from our viewpoint, with our rationale. They are a very patient people," she adds, "therefore, very resilient."

Patience is an equally applicable
(continued on page 51)

Solitary Mourner

By Sp4 Sandra Nozzi

Casualties arrive in a steady stream throughout the night, as planes rumble noisily overhead on patrol. Nurse Phillips, an idealistic young Army nurse, works to save the lives of those she can, and eases the pain for the Doughboys she knows will die in those bleak 1917-1918 days.

It's a different world now for Elizabeth Phillips, who at 98 is as rare and delicate as the crumbling newsclips and yellowed photographs she treasures. Yet her memories of the two years she served in France as a World War I Army nurse remain as clear and sharp as broken crystal.

"Our country was at war, and back then everybody wanted to do all they could to help our boys who were fighting for freedom," she remarked recently during an impromptu interview at the Presidio Museum.

She was one of several women invited to attend a press tour of the museum's exhibit, "The American Woman at War", honoring the contributions of the American woman in the military.

"In 1917 our hospital in New York organized a group of volunteer nurses and corpsmen to go overseas, and, of course, I wanted to go," she explained. "We arrived in France on May 30, 1917, and no provision had been made to feed us," she chuckled.

"Our first days in France were spent eating leftover British rations of canned salmon, bread and tea.

"We nurses were paid \$60 a month. We had no rank and we had to buy our own uniforms," she continued,

"but it didn't matter. We were just thankful that we could do something and be of use."

To her and the other nurses stationed at the base hospital at Etretat, "being of use" meant doing what they could to save lives in a war where medical technology had not kept pace with the unparalleled horrors of trench warfare.

With as many as 11 operating tables going at once, she and her comrades worked 12-hour shifts, seven days a week for months at a time. There, and also during the three weeks she spent as a volunteer five miles behind the

front, shrapnel and bullet wounds, poison gases, gangrene and epidemic disease followed the nurses on their rounds like black shadows.

"After seeing the misery and hardship that was everywhere around us during World War I, I never wanted to see a country at war again," she shuddered.

There was no cure for the terrible effects of mustard gas, or the influenza epidemic that swept the world that year. At times, so many died so quickly that the dead were buried in mass graves.

Desperately wanting to help but unable to save them, the veteran nurse still cries as she remembers the only thing she could do to show she cared. She stood alone, the solitary mourner, with "her boys" on the windswept French countryside as they were buried.

When she returned after the Armistice in 1918, she turned her battle-hardened resolve in a new direction.

"At the time, there was a big, fat book called the Army Manual," she said. "There was only one paragraph in it about us and it covered nurses and stray dogs in the same paragraph.

"Well," she continued with great relish, "thousands of us nurses who had just come back from the war converged on the Senate and House like a hive of bees to re-organize the Army Manual. 'See here,' we said to the Congressmen, 'the nurses want rank. We have to have rank to control our



A World War I nurse, Elizabeth Phillips, chats with a visitor. Now 98, she served in France in 1917-1918.

wards.

"But all we had was relative rank, which gave us the pay of officers but no authority over the corpsmen. After World War II, the nurses went back to Washington to say, 'See here—we demand equal rank!' and in 1948 we finally got it."

She tried repeatedly to enlist again as a nurse in World War II, but was found ineligible because of her age. So she began helping Allied soldiers in a different way.

"First I started making and sending a few food parcels to the POWs in Germany," she recalls. "You know—food, books, photos and a pen or pencil. They began writing me back and begging me to send them something, you see."

"Then a story came out in the San Francisco Chronicle and Examiner about what I was doing and people started calling, asking how they could help. It just got bigger and bigger until I had people on my list from the Atlantic to the Pacific sending food."

After two years, the Red Cross took over the sending of food, so she mobilized her volunteers to send them books instead.

The spry, white-haired Miss Phillips (who declares proudly that she is a "Miss by choice") describes herself today as a "patriotic Republican," until recently very active in politics, and happy with her life.

"All my life I've been able to do what I really wanted, one way or another—to help people."

Pinned to her dress just above the heart, Elizabeth Phillips wears a tattered World War I Victory campaign ribbon. Sixty-five years after the ribbon was new, the pride and the pain still show.

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- This may be the only complete "closed" coin issue you will ever be able to buy in your lifetime at this price.
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Not only will these SBAs enrich your own collection, but they should become family heirlooms to be passed along to your children and your grandchildren.

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***MINTING ERROR** The error that makes this a rarity? Take a quarter and lay it on the Susan B. Anthony pictured above. Note the similarity in size that turned out to be its problem. People refused to use it—perhaps you were one of them. When the U.S. Government became aware of this public rejection, they recognized that there had been an error in judgment. Susan B. Anthony coin minting ceased, destining the coins to collector status. *

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NOTICES

(continued from page 14)

ARMY

Seeking comrades

1st Cav. Div. (Airmbl.), 1st Bn., 7th Cav., Co. B (Vietnam)—Seeking veterans and closest kin of veterans of my former unit; also medic named Hunt assigned to my platoon.—Jerry Benfield, Rt. 1, Box 75, Granite Falls, N.C. 28630.

3rd Army, 250th QM Depot Co. (WWII)—Seeking men from my former unit.—Gene Martello, P.O. Box 831, Hallandale, Fla. 33009.

7th Inf. Div., Rgt. Tank Co., (Korea, 1950-51)—Alvin M. Clouse, P.O. Box 297, Cookeville, Tenn. 38501.

9th AF 386th Bomb Grp., 553rd Bomb Sqdn. (England, 1943-44)—Attempting to locate T/Sgt. Edgar Allison Dufont Barber III.—Leroy D. McFarland, P.O. Box 5543, Abilene, Texas 79608.

11th Airborne Div., 187th Glider Inf. Rgt. (WWII)—Seeking William P. Bannon.—Nicholas J. Florio, 156 Kearney Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10465.

15th USAF 2nd B.G., 20th Sqdn.—Would like to contact Lts. Bob Draper, Forney S. Brice, Sgts. Billy Mitchell, John R. Johnson, others.—Keran A. Sharkey, 274 Church St. (7E), Guilford, Conn. 06437.

25th Inf. Div., 34th Armrd., Co. B (Cu Chi, Vietnam, 1968-69)—Seeking present whereabouts of Bill Butters who served on my tank.—Toby L. Brant, Rt. 4, Box 267, Charleston, Ill. 61920.

25th Inf. Div., 2/12 Inf., 3rd Bde., 805th Trans. Co. attached to 69th Trans. Co. (Long Binh, Vietnam, September 2, 1967-September 2, 1968)—Looking for former members of Dau Tung Red Devils.—William E. Price, P.O. Box 195, Logan, Ill. 62456.

28th FA Bn., B Btry.—Jesus Villafranco, P.O. Box 832, San Benito, Texas 78586.

28th Field Hosp. (France and Germany, WWII)—Must locate PFC Max Gans.—F McArole, 5324 Harding Rd., Pennsauken, N.J. 08109.

44th Tank Bn., Co. B (Tokyo, 1944-45)—Wish to contact Joseph Padelskus of East Granby Conn.—Albert J. Mullen, A-17 Melody Meadows, Angola, N.Y. 14006.

64th CAC-AA, Btry. I (Ft. Sharkey, 1934-41)—Any members please contact.—Robert H. Cooper, Box 72, Nokesville, Va. 22123.

66th Inf. Div., 2/263rd Inf., Hdqr. Co. (WWII)—Would like to hear from anyone knowing the whereabouts of Joseph T. Schilly, Hyman Jarmelofsky, both of New York, and Forest P. Breaux of La.—Peter S. Orlando, 57 E. Englewood Ave., Bergenfield, N.J. 07621.

70th Inf. Div. (Wiesbaden, Germany, 1945)—Seeking Lt. Rees, a doctor who returned to visit in the 1950s.—Tom S. Higley, 2805 Hanes Ave., Albuquerque, N.M. 87106.

74th Trp. Carrier Sqdn. Assn. (WWII)—Seeking surviving members for reunion planned this summer in Dallas.—V.M. Draper, Rt. 4, Box 379, Bluff City, Tenn. 37618.

79th Div., 3/314th Inf., Hdqr. Co.—Would like to know whereabouts of John A. Wade, Steven T. Creech, M.D. Wallace, John F. Mundy.—S.M. Dowdle, Rt. 2, Box 202, Caledonia, Miss. 39740.

106th Div., 422 Inf. Div., Co. E (Ft. Jackson, S.C., March 1943-September, 1944)—Want to hear from former members.—Peter Caro, 413 Jefferson Ave., Bristol, Pa. 19007.

96th Engr. Gen. Svc. Rgt.—Would like to locate any past members of the unit.—William H. Smith, 920 Drackert, Hammond, Ind. 46320.

104th Div., 1/414th—Seeking Clayton Compton—Thomas Lamb, P.O. Box 252, Guerneville, Calif. 95446.

120 AAA—Seeking names, addresses of persons serving in WWII.—Robert F. Jones, 1003 Pitkin Ave., Akron, Ohio 44310.

385th Med. Gen. Disp. (Japan, 1947-49)—Seeking Robert Lee Hawkins, best man at our wedding, to celebrate 35th anniversary.—Jack V. Boyd, 386 El Valle, Green Valley, Ariz. 85614.

577th Engr. Bn. (Vietnam, June, 1966-June, 1967)—Where are you now?—Dallas A. Hedrick, 3423 Kreitler Dr., Forest Hill, Md. 21050.

697th AAF Band (Great Bend, 1943-45)—Need to contact members for reunion.—Steve Gajdos, 220 E. Lockspur St., Munhall, Pa. 15120.

402nd Coast Arty. (Ft. Bliss, 1942); 875th Ord. Bn. (Camp Rucker, 1943)—Need names and addresses for possible reunion.—Charles V. Schimmel, P.O. Box 104, Spicer, Minn. 56288.

492 QM Depot Co. (New Caledonia, WWI)—Would like to contact Lester Wiler.—J.B. Comstock, 1837 Rosemont Ave., Claremont, Calif. 91711.

736th Tank Bn., Co. D (WWII)—Seeking J.D. McElroy and Rudy Parks.—Stewart E. Collins, Box 1222, Andrews, Texas 79714.

753rd Tank Bn. (WWII, Korea)—Would like to hear from Raymond L. Diehl, Alfred Sorenson, Frank Fessler, Max Feldman, Charles McNeil, Joseph G. Felber or relatives for history and possible reunion.—Albert M. McGee, 1733 Hilltop Dr., Waco, Texas 76710.

1127th Com. Engr. Grp., Hdqr. Co. (WWII)—Reunion?—John B. Peaslee, 1244 N. 9th St., Manitowoc, Wis. 54220.

AD668C (WWII)—Seeking members for 40th anniversary.—Thomas E. Hart, 8 Oakwood Dr., Wilkes-Barre, Pa. 18702.

Ardmore Army Airfield (Oklahoma, 1942-46)—Planning reunion and need addresses of all persons assigned there and interested in reunion.—Hamilton R. Post, 998 Locust Ave., Washington, Pa. 15301.

Burleigh Prov. Bomb Grp. (Boggs Field, El Paso, June, 1943)—Seeking Alex E. Burleigh, commanding officers and other staff.—J.W. Kellogg, 713 3rd Ave. N.W., Minot, N.D. 58701.

Camp Ellis Cardinals football team (1944)—Any coaches or players on team.—Jess Stewart, 414 S. 7th St., Healdton, Okla. 73438.

NOTICES

Hospital (Paris)—Seeking a nurse named Kelly who served in either 40th Gen. or 191st Gen. near Paris.—Raymond E. Pino, 1816 Progress, Lincoln Park, Minn. 48146.

Heilbronn, Germany (1945)—Former POW seeking Capt. Haley, Lts. Polson, Stolling and Sarf.—Anton (Tony) Greiner, 2669 Loris Dr., Dayton, Ohio 45449.

USAAF (WWII)—Seeking Roy L. Splawn, stationed at Will Rogers Field from May 1944 to 1945.—Lowell R. Baker, 714 11th Ave. S.E., Austin, Minn. 55912.

MARINES

Seeking comrades

1st Marine Div., 7th Marines, 2nd Bn., D Co. (Korea, 1950)—Would like to hear from Maj. Milton A. Hull.—Laurence A. Fleming, P.O. Box 4, North Plymouth, Mass. 02360.

2nd Marine Amphibian Truck (DUKW) Co. (WWII)—Seeking former members.—Arthur W. Wells, 1629 Sunset Ave., Chico, Calif. 95926.

2nd Marine Div., 2nd Marines, 3rd Bn., I Co.—Seeking Pvt. Billy Don Francis.—Edward G. Downing, Fairground Rd., Plymouth, N.H. 03264.

10th Amphibian Tractor Bn. (Marshall Islands, Saipan, Iwo Jima, 1943-46)—Interested in having a reunion?—Albert Grenz, 1711 Burr St., St. Paul, Minn. 55117.

NAVY

Seeking shipmates

USS Alhena (Bougainville)—Anyone aboard ship, in particular Jimmy Lieberknecht.—Jimmy Bowen, 305 Janmar Dr., Denham Springs, La. 70726.

USS Augusta—Urgently seeking Charles Leonard Schmeller.—George A. Lievens, 194 River Ave., Holland, Mich. 49423.

USS Ganymede (AK104)—Would like to hear from anyone who served with me from 1943-45.—D.L. Burch, 244 Des Moines, Salina, Kans. 67401.

USAT John Hannay (1942)—Everett E. Woolums, 108 Elizabeth St., Frankfort, Ky. 40601.

USS Hornet (CV12) (1943-46)—Seeking Victor Purdy and William D. Sabo.—Chuck W. Campbell, 810 Saratoga, Lake Havasu City, Ariz. 86403.

USS LCI(M) 755 (1945-46)—Need to contact shipmates who served in Yokohama.—Peter F. Pestoni, 204 W. Curtis, Salinas, Calif. 93906.

USS LST 496—Would like to hear from former shipmates.—Joe Sandor, Box 898, Stuart, Fla. 33495.

USS Memphis (1943-45)—Nick Kourambis, 309 Hillside Ave., Leonia, N.J. 07605.

USS Passumpsic (AO107)—Reunion?—Robert Holland Jr., Box 625, Gloversville, N.Y. 12078 or Mike Sagendorf, 843 River St., Troy, N.Y. 12180.

USS Saipan (Pensacola, 1955)—Seeking Gale M. Corbell.—Bea Krie, 6309 E. Drexford St., Lakewood, Calif. 90713.

USS Shangri-La (CVA38) (1955-56)—Robert A.G. Strickland, 5-24, Hama, Otsu, I-Chome, Otsu City, Shiga Pref., Japan 520.

USS William Seiverling (DE441) (1944-45)—Seeking Ralph Fontana or anyone knowing his whereabouts.—William Price Goldsmith, 3411 Prince George St., East Point, Ga. 30344.

USSNAD, (Crane, Ind., WWII)—Need to contact WAVES regarding fall reunion.—Lorene Sabonjian, 410 Flossmoor, Waukegan, Ill. 60085.

Naval Air Gunners School (Jacksonville, Fla.)—Anyone interested in reunion in Jacksonville this fall?—Bob Bishop, 221 Capenter Ln., N. Huntington, Pa. 15642, or Tom Travers, 19 Franco Ave., Selden, N.Y. 11784.

New Cumberland Army Depot (1942-43)—Seeking Oliver Herttua or whereabouts.—Hildi K. Grassa, 634 S. 2nd St., Steelton, Pa. 17113.

MISCELLANEOUS

Albuquerque, N.M.—Seeking whereabouts of Richard Martin Sandler, last known address in Lodi, Calif., in 1980. Former VFW Post Commander in Illinois.—John G. Sindler, 416 14th St. NW, Albuquerque, N.M. 87104.

Pearl Harbor—Seeking T/Sgt. Douglas James Pearce or anyone knowing his whereabouts; also Hook Pearce who served in Marines during WWII.

Armed Forces Broadcasters—New association seeking members; veterans or active duty.—AFBA, Box 12013, Arlington, Va. 22209.

Bovington Airfield, Hertfordshire, England.—Seeking servicemen serving between 1929-45 who may remember me from an incident in which I wandered onto the airfield.—Alan Charles, Chorleywood Bottom, Chorleywood, Hertfordshire, England.

Schofield Barracks, 27th Inf., Co. E (1933-34)—Have available scroll and pictures of unit for first person to answer notice.—Harold S. Bortz, 2814 N. Rosewell, Santa Ana, Calif. 92701.

Vietnam Vets Motorcycle Club—Forming motorcycle club and looking for members.—Vietnam Vets M/C, Box 461, Hammond, Ind. 46325.

VFW Department and District Pins—For Post collection.—Mike Flanagan, 3762 W. 176th St., Cleveland, Ohio 44111.

"The Deadeyes," a history of the 96th Inf. Div., by O.R. Davidson, J.C. Willems and J.A. Kahl.—Seeking the book or information about where it can be obtained. Also would like to hear from anyone with the last name of Daggett.—Glenda Daggett Docherty, Box 318, Matherville, Ill. 61263.

WWI Veteran—Seeking information about my father, George Bornson. Was in VA hospital in 1945-46.—Claudia C.M. Otwell, 10822 Siam Ct., Brooklyn, Mich. 49230.

AUTHORS' QUERIES & MISCELLANEOUS

Vietnam—Currently preparing book for junior high school students. Would appreciate receiving reflections on the war from Vietnam vets.—Denis J. Hauptly, 42 Hewitt Ave., North Andover, Mass. 01845.

Pictures of Pinup Girls for U.S. Navy Ships (WWII)—For inclusion in upcoming book.—Tim Benford, 1464 Whippoorwill Way, Mountainside, N.J. 07092.

Letters to and from Marines (Vietnam, 1965-75)—Daniel F. Ring, Kresge Library, Oakland University, Rochester, Mich. 48063.

Posters (WWII to present)—Wish to obtain posters or name of source for posters dealing with national defense and foreign policy.—John Hartley, 2241 E. Contessa Cir., Mesa, Ariz. 85203.

Army Bands (WWII-Vietnam)—Wish to contact former bandmen for stories, letters, pictures, etc. for history.—Commandant, USAESOM, DDDT, ATTN: Historian, NAVPHI-BASE (LCR), Norfolk, Va. 23521.

Bikini Atomic Bomb Tests (1946)—Comments and recollections requested from personnel assigned to project.—Lloyd J. Graybar, History Dept., Bldg. 201, Eastern Kentucky University, Richmond, Ky. 40475.

5th Div., 138th Inf. (WWII)—Seeking recollections of persons serving with Maj. Dwight F. Davis, esp. at the Argonne Battle in 1918.—J.M. Hartle, Box 146, Lutesville, Mo. 63762.

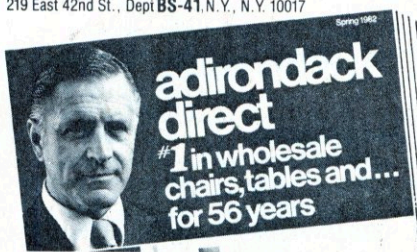
Rabaul (1943)—Writing book concerning air raids on Rabaul and would appreciate hearing from anyone connected.—Lex McCaulay, 160 Copland Dr., Evatt, Act, Australia 2617.

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REUNIONS

ALL BRANCHES

May
American Defenders of Bataan & Corregidor—1-8, Miami Beach, Fla.—Joe Vater, 18 Warbler Dr., McKees Rocks, Pa. 15136; Austin Patrizio, 414 Richmond Pl., Leonia, N.J. 07605, or Ralph Levenberg, P.O. Box 337, Henderson, Nev. 89015.

ALL BRANCHES

June
American Division Veterans Assn.—16-19, Manchester-Bedford, N.H.—Joseph F Marotta, Schooner Pass, 6 Ships View Terr., Bourne, Mass. 02532.

CCC Alumni, Co. 719—18-19, Duluth, Minn.—John W. Ek, 1215 W. 5th St., Duluth, Minn. 55806.

AIR FORCE

April
19th Bombardment Assn.—29-May 1, Reno, Nev.—Herbert A. Frank, 90-13 201st St., Hollis, N.Y. 11423.

June
13th Air Force, 390th Bomb. Sqdn. (M)—18-25, Theilman, Minn.—Bert Rice, 16173 Hazel Rd., Morrison, Ill.

375th T.C. Grp., 56th T.C. Sqdn. (WWII)—10-12, Cleveland, Ohio—Erwin J. Walter, 977 Cardiff Dr., Crystal Lake, Ill. 60014.

388 Bomb. Grp. Assn.—1-19, England—Ed Huntzinger, P.O. 965, Cape Coral, Fla. 33910.

ARMY

April
24th Inf. Div., 21st Inf. Rgt., Co. L (Korea, June, 1950-June, 1951)—15-17, San Antonio, Tex.—Robert L. Anderson, 4700 Stringfellow, Apt. 1307, San Antonio, Tex. 78223.

65th Gen. Hosp. (WWII)—29-30, Arlington, Va.—Sarkis C. Mhrianian, 19 Gregory Ln., Loudonville, N.Y. 12211

76th Gen. Hosp.—30-May 1, Fort Dodge, Iowa—Knut T. Oppedahl, 1111 5th Ave. SW, Humboldt, Iowa 50548.

436th T.C. Grp., 82nd T.C. Sqdn. Assn. (WWII)—30-May 1, San Francisco, Calif.—Peter F English, 659 Claremont Dr., Vacaville, Calif. 95688.

May
2nd Armd. Div., 17th Engr. Bn., Co. A—19-21, Syracuse, N.Y.—Al Caiella, 109 Sunstruck, Syracuse, N.Y. 13206 or Willard Curtis, 110 S. Revena, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103.

4th Div. (WWII)—28-June 10, Europe—Greg McDonnell, 1 Crestview Dr., Dover, N.H. 03820.

8th Svc. Grp., 11th Svc. Sqdn., 482 Svc. Sqdn., HQ Sqdn. (WWII)—13-15, Lancaster, Pa.—John J. (Jack) Heckler, 76 E. Harbor Dr., Teaticket, Mass. 02536.

435th T.C. Grp., 75th Sqdn.—13-14, Houston, Tex.—Robert C. Richards, 139 Kiser Dr., Tipp City, Ohio 45371.

sa3 490th Bomb. Grp. Assn.—12-15—George Pickard, 30430 Red Maple Ln., Southfield Mich. 48076.

June
7th Inf. Div. Assn.—10-12, Jefferson City, Mo.—Louis S. Wise, Jr., 3001 Richmond Ave., Mattoon, Ill. 61938.

8th Div. Arty. (Germany, 1956-1959)—17-19, Nashville, Tenn.—J.W. Burwell, 104 E. Navajo, W. Lafayette, Ind. 47906.

8th Field Observation Bn., Co. B—4-5, Mankato, Minn.—Daniel L. Edwards, Box 176, Rt. 1, Lake Crystal, Minn. 56055.

8th Fighter Grp., 80th Fighter Sqdn. (Headhunters)—9-11, Salt Lake City, Utah—Yale L. Saffro, 7841 Kildare Ave., Skokie, Ill. 60076.

IX Corps Arty., HQ Btry. (WWII)—4-5, Buford, Ga.—Thurman R.A. Bernethy, Rt. 8, Box 575, Hickory, N.C. 28601.

11th Bomb. Grp. (H) Assn.—8-11, Orlando, Fla.—Bob May, P.O. Box 637, Seffner, Fla. 33584.

13th Air Force, 321 Svc. Grp., 9th Svc. Sqdn.—3-5, Biloxi, Miss.—Ivon Scroggs, 6420 El Ranch Dr., Shreveport, La. 71129.

26th Svc. Sqdn. (WWII)—16-19, Tulsa, Okla.—Robert S. Hunter, 820 Hilltop Ave., Loganport, Ind. 46947.

51st Fighter Grp., 26th Fighter Sqdn. (China Blitzers)—23-25, Sacramento, Calif.—Gordon V Sortommo, 1206 41st St., Sacramento, Calif. 95819 or Roy R. Santin, 5420 Marmith Ave., Sacramento, Calif. 95841.

60th T.C. Grp.—15-18, Hampton, Va.—John Diamatakos, 7216 Pine Tree Ln., Fairfield, Ala. 35064.

66th Div. (Panther Veteran Org., WWII)—23-26, Arlington, Va.—Bob Hesse, 26 E. Curtis St., Linden, N.J. 07036.

74th T.C. Sqdn. Assn. (WWII)—9-11, Dallas, Tex.—V.M. Draper, Rt. 4, Box 379, Bluff City, Tenn. 37618.

79th Inf. Div., 904th EA Bn.—30-July 2—William R. Peters, Jr., 343 Buckhorn Ln., Hillside, Ill. 60162.

86th Fighter Grp. (WWII)—9-11, Dayton, Ohio—4638 Maplewood, Tulsa, Okla. 74135.

91st Inf. Div.—9-11, Medford, Ore.—Richard L. Barnes, 3940 Mill Lst., Eugene, Ore. 97405.

99th Sig. Bn.—10-11, Grand Prairie, Tex.—Louin Griffin, 626 Donlee, Lancaster, Tex. 75134.

103rd Inf. Div., 382 EA Bn., Btry. C—24-26, St. Louis, Mo.—Marcellus Jacobson, 3234 Anderson Dr., Eau Claire, Wis. 54701.

103rd Div., 410 Inf., 2nd Bn.—23-26, Chicago, Ill.—A.J. Thoenig, 2512 Burr Oak Ave., Blue Island, Ill. 60406.

106th Cavalry—24-25, Champaign, Ill.—Ed Hess, 1409 Champaign, Champaign, Ill. 61820.

188th EA Bn. Svc. Btry. (WWII)—17-19—Otto Victor, 904 N. Anderson, Bismarck, N.D. 58501.

191 EA Bn., A Btry. (WWII)—4, Winchester, Tenn.—W.F. Williams, P.O. Box 215, Cowan, Tenn. 37318.

222nd Searchlight Bn.—16-18, Harrisburg, Pa.—Paul A. Hoffman, 204 Gettysburg St., Dillsburg, Pa. 17019.

299th Com. Engr. Bn. (WWII)—4-6, Rochester, N.Y.—Donald A. Miller, 808 Place Dr., Johnson City, N.Y. 13790.

365th EA Bn.—10-11, Colorado Springs, Colo.—B.L. Anderson, Tribune, Kans. 67879.

371st Engr. Bn., Co. A—24-25, Southgate, Mich.—Andrew Szocs, 14841 Champaign Ave., Allen Park, Mich. 48101.

373rd G.S. Rgt. 24-26, Alexandria, La.—Herschel Allen, Rt. 1, Box 31, Lena, La. 71447.

(continued on page 46)

MAIL CALL

(continued from page 19)

a desire to open itself up to us. Nobody enjoys the repudiation of his work, particularly if this work is seen by individuals as contributing to personal and professional growth. —*Roland W. Golden, 56 Marginal St., Green Harbor, Mass. 02041.*

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CORRECTION...

In "America's Black Air Force" (November, 1982), retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Benjamin O. Davis, Jr., was incorrectly identified as the Air Force's first black four-star general. This distinction belongs to the late Gen. Daniel (Chappie) James. The error was not the fault of the author, Berkley McCollum.

RAPE

ROBBERY

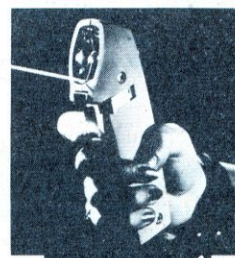
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(continued from page 12)

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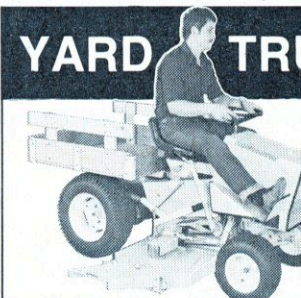
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(continued on page 52)

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REUNIONS

(continued from page 45)

417th Night Fighters Sqdn. (WWII)—3-5, Philadelphia, Pa.—David Miller, Apparell Center 3-113, Chicago, Ill. 60654.
461st A.A.—16-18, Asheville, N.C.—John English, 3455 Poplar St., Riverside, Calif. 92501.
461 A.A.A., Btry. B - 15-19, Portland, Ore.—Larry W. Brown, 538 Burns, Clarkston, Wash. 99403 or George Stein, 701 NE 97th Ave., Vancouver, Wash. 98664.
557th Ord. H.M. Co. (Tk)—23-25—Leslie W. Thomas, 18012 Exchange Ave., Lansing, Ill. 60438.
574th Sig. A.W. Bn. (New Guinea, Philippines, 1945)—28, Orlando, Fla.—Charles A. McGaffin, San Mateo Rd., San Mateo, Fla. 32088.
644th T.D. Bn.—28-30, White Haven, Pa.—Frank Arieta, 232 W. Catawissa St., Nesquehoning, Pa. 18240.
650th Engr. Topo. Bn. (WWII)—14, O'Neill, Neb.—Bernard Dusatko, Emmet, Neb. 68734.
702nd Tank Destroyer Bn., Co. A—3-6, Huntsville, Ala.—James R. Martin, Sr., P.O. Box 127, Collinwood, Tenn. 38450.
705th Tank Destroyer Bn.—15-19, Las Vegas, Nev.—P.O. Box 14317, Las Vegas, Nev. 89114.
746th ROB Co. C—21-23, Indianapolis, Ind.—William O. Orndoff, 9222 Rushmore Blvd. N., Indianapolis, Ind. 46234.
793rd A.A.A. (A.W.) Bn., HQ Btry.—25-26, Nashville, Tenn.—William (Hoke) Holcombe, 175 Iron Gate Circle, Post Orange, Fla. 32019.
813th Av. Engr. Bn. (WWII)—24-26, Gilmer, Tex.—Glynn P. Arrington, P.O. Box 217, Gilmer, Tex. 75644.
1289th Combat Engr. Bn.—25, Buckeye Lake, Ohio—Philip A. Schillaci, 5624 Battin Rd., Silver Springs, N.Y. 14550.
Army Air Corps Pilot Class 43 F (Stockton Army Air Field, 22 June 1943)—21-23, Stockton, Calif.—Henry H. Day, 1640 NW Arthur Circle, Corvallis, Calif. 97330.

MARINES

4th Marine Div. Assn.—22-26, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.—Jinx Shaffman, Ocean Club #501, 4020 Galt Ocean Dr., Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. 33308.

NAVY

USS Frybarger (DE705)—22-24, Salisbury, N.C.—Alex Boyd, Jr., 5107 Bryce Ln., Richmond, Va. 23224.
USS Little (DD803)—29-May 1, Dallas, Tex.—E.M. (Andy) Anderson, 8155 Santa Clara Dr., Dallas, Tex. 75218.

MAY

Lighter-Than-Air Aviators—11-13, Pensacola, Fla.—Capt. M.H. Eppes, USN (Ret.), 3304 Spring Mill Circle, Sarasota, Fla. 33579.

JUNE

79th Constr. Bn. (WWII)—26-28, Susanville, Calif.—Bud Turner, 7008 E. Shore, Westwood, Calif. 96137.
136th Navy Constr. Bn.—14-18, St. Petersburg, Fla.—Ralph T. Harrison, 837 Millwood Rd., Broken Arrow, Okla. 74012.
SB2C Aviators-2, Norfolk, Va.—James (Al) Chinn, 2588 Blaze Trail, Diamond Bar, Calif. 91765.
PBM Aviators—2, Norfolk, Va.—Bob Smith, 6468 W 85th Pl., Los Angeles, Calif. 90045.
Navy Hurricane Hunters—17-18, Jacksonville, Fla.—Reunion Committee, 2818 Cedarcrest Dr., Orange Park, Fla. 32073.
USS Abercrombie (DE343)—15-17, Nashville, Tenn.—Ray Shiel, 26 Whipple Ave., Cranston, R.I. 02920.
USS Achernar (AKA53, WWII)—18-19, State College, Pa.—Carol Preston, 1491 Longbrook Dr., Cullman, Ala. 35055.
USS Barnett (APA5)—10-11, Denver, Colo.—John Kolstad, 2213 Ming Ave., Bakersfield, Calif. 93304 or Joe Bellardo, 215 State St., Jamestown, N.Y. 14701.
USS Blackhawk and Assigned Destroyer Divisions (Atlantic Fleet)—17-18, Sparks, Nev.—H.M. Wagner, 25222 Wilson St., Los Angeles, Calif. 96055 or G.H. Mason, 5112 21st St. NE, Puyallup, Wash. 98371.
USS Cowpens (CVL25)—22-26, Cowpens, S.C.—Gerald B. Shaw, P.O. Box 560505, Miami, Fla. 33156.
USS Chicago (CA29, CA 136, CG11)—16-19, Niagara Falls, N.Y.—Dr. Bill Molen, Box 274, Newman Grove, Neb. 68758 or Cliff Newton, 3275 Wildwood, Hamburg, N.Y. 14075.
USS Essex (CV/CVA/CV58)—14-18, Orlando, Fla.—Bob Morgan, 3841 SW 29th Pl., Orlando, Fla. or Capt. Horst A. Petrich, 621 Robens Rd., Virginia Beach, Va. 23452.
USS Fanshaw (CVE70)—23-25, St. Louis, Mo.—Harold A. Hoffman, 8647 Belhaven Dr., St. Louis, Mo. 63114.
USS Hogan (DM56)—3-5, Memphis, Tenn.—Craig Tennison, P.O. Box 40126, Memphis, Tenn. 38014.
USS Leon (APA48, WWII)—17-19, Salisbury, Md.—Sam Seidel, P.O. Box 108, Salisbury, Md. 21801.
USS LST 277 (WWII)—17-19, Youngstown, Ohio—Bill Irwin, 5509 Panorama Dr., Huntsville, Ala. 35801.
USS Miami (CL89)—24-26, Lancaster, Pa.—Betty Richardson, 5507 Limeric Circle, Apt. 46, Wilmington, Del. 19808.
USS PC785—10-12, Dayton, Ohio—Edward E. Hill, 6420 Noranda Dr., Dayton, Ohio 45415.
USS PC 1195 (WWII)—11-12, Hershey, Pa.—Chester H. Estep, 902 Pearl St., Washington C.H., Ohio 43160.
USS Portland (CA33)—2-5, Portland, Maine—C. Ridgely, P.O. Box 184, Schererville, Ind. 46375-0184.
USS Renville (APA227)—16-18, San Diego, Calif.—Robert L. Clark, 9818 Conero Rd., Santee, Calif. 92701.
USS Rinehart (DE196)—17-19, Cleveland, Ohio—Franklin E. Hixson, P.O. Box 1261, Uniontown, Pa. 15401.
USS Sibley (APA206, WWII)—24-26, Augusta, Ga.—Cliff H. McKie, 3725 Old Waynesboro Rd., Augusta, Ga. 30906.
USS Tennessee—9-11, San Diego, Calif.—James Taggart, P.O. Box 81065, San Diego, Calif. 92138.
USS Walnwright (DD419) and DESRON 8 Units (WWII)—2-5, Bloomington, Ind.—Lee R. Craig, 520 Slack Dr., Anderson, Ind. 46013.
USS Yew (YN32)—18-19, Bristol, Pa.—C.D. Theobald, Rt. 1, Box 158, Rock Hall, Md. 21661.
Navy Patrol Bomb. Sqdn. 117 (VPB117, Liberators, WWII)—16-19, New Orleans, La.—J.B. (Nick) Carter, 17 Athena Ct., Little Rock, Ark. 72207.

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POWs/MIAs

(continued from page 6)

tive and the intelligence assets of the United States are fully focused on this issue."

The President's reference to full accounting fulfills a VFW priority goal and proves that the VFW has been successful in its efforts to bring to the attention of previous Administrations that POW/MIA problems were not being addressed properly.

"Furthermore, I pledge to you that we will take decisive action on any live sighting reports that can be confirmed."

It was also reassuring that his national security adviser, William P. Clark, expressed similar sentiments to the league the previous night. He had voiced this also at the 83rd National VFW Convention in Los Angeles last August.

"Information now in our possession disallows us from ruling out the possibility that Americans are still being detained against their will," he said.

"We not only care deeply about our missing men and you, their families, but we are devoting our highest priority resources to the task of obtaining the release of any prisoners who may still be held, the fullest accounting of those missing and the repatriation of remains of those who died serving our nation," he said.

Clark hit the nail on the head when he said Vietnam's failure to act in accordance with the agreement signed Jan. 27, 1973, has given that country's leaders "a perception of incredible cruelty."

"Continued violation of the most fundamental moral principles can only lead Vietnam further into international isolation," he pointed out.

In a generous gesture, the government flew more than 300 relatives to the Crystal City program in Air Force planes from 19 bases throughout the country. The relatives also were asked to bring full-face photographs and dental and medical records of their missing kin from personal physicians.

The letters notifying them of the invitation said the government has received 1,682 reports of prisoners of war or missing in action since Saigon's collapse in 1975. Of these, 465 were firsthand "live sightings" reports.

The VFW's position on the question of the prisoners and missing is unequivocal. As long ago as 1969, long before the government itself publicly expressed concern about the status

of prisoners and missing, the VFW launched a campaign for their release or humane treatment by inviting several of their wives to the 70th National Convention in Philadelphia. This was followed the next year by a massive collection of signatures on petitions for presentation to the North Vietnamese delegation in Paris.

Consistently, at each National Convention thereafter, resolutions have been adopted putting the VFW on record as demanding action on this issue.

Resolution 422 notes that President Reagan "must seriously consider and act upon this critical problem immediately. It concerns the very moral fiber of our nation as well as statutory obligation of the President to see to the welfare of men under his command."

The resolution also calls for inclusion of the National League of Families in all inter-agency discussions "from which policy intended to resolve this issue will evolve."

The resolution sets forth clearly that the VFW urges maximum United States economic and diplomatic pressure be sustained as long as necessary to prevent "nations and movements" hindering the search for MIAs "desist from this cruel practice and assist in the search effort as called for not only in the Paris Accords of 1973 but also by our common humanity."

Further, the resolution demands that no most favored nation status be granted the Soviet Union, no trade agreements entered into with it, nor material or monetary aid be "even considered" for the Socialist Republic of Vietnam "or any other likeminded countries" until all the prisoners are returned and the MIAs accounted for. The VFW also calls attempts to barter for MIA information "as the lowest and most despicable form of international blackmail."

There can be no let-up in our quest for an accounting of the missing or the prisoners' return.

After the signing of the Paris Accords, the North Vietnamese had released 590 American prisoners by April 1, 1973, but we still want to know definitely what happened to the others and we want our 2,494 missing in action accounted for.

Remember, the United States kept its part of the agreement. All American troops were out of South Vietnam by March 29, 1973.

The VFW will never turn its back on the MIAs and POWs. **NFW**

Robby Risner Was Shot Down

(continued from page 31)

Magazine had Colonel Risner's picture on the cover. Now, he was in Communist hands.

I wondered if the North Vietnamese had access to that issue of *Time*. Would Risner have to suffer more at their hands because of the unrequested fame given him by the magazine? The thought caused my insides to contract and my heart to pound faster. "Are...are we going to have a worship service of some kind to pray for him?" I asked. Fr. Meskenas slowly nodded his head affirmatively. "OK," I said, "I'll make up a bulletin and get it distributed throughout the housing areas letting people know of the service." "No need," the harried priest responded with a sign. "The word will get out."

At the service the next day, our chapel was crowded; not a pew was empty. People crammed the aisles and lined the walkway outside. It was the first time we had ever filled the small church building.

Everywhere I went on base, people appeared subdued. In the dining hall, one of the enlisted guys just ahead of me in line said to the cook across the serving counter, "Did you hear about Risner?" "Yeah," answered the cook, a touch of sadness in his voice. Not another word was spoken. I knew and they knew that nothing else needed to be said. We all felt a deep sense of loss. Suddenly, I had the realization that I, too, was a part of the war; that Robby Risner was more than just another unknown. He was part of me.

As I continued to listen to Gen. Risner speak, I reflected on that day in 1965 when he was shot down. And I remembered the days following it—the resolute way that people at Korat, support and combat troops alike, dug in together and worked even harder to support our fighting men. I recalled how Fr. Meskenas told me the F-105 pilots had determined to give their flying missions their all in honor of Robby.

Most of all, I remembered how, on Sept. 16, 1965, I finally became a full-fledged member of the finest bunch of fighting men the United States of America has ever produced. **NFW**

The author teaches in the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Texas at Austin.

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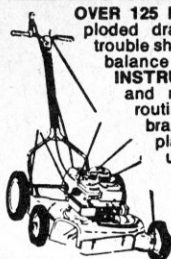
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For an MIA Wife The Heart is a Lonely Hunter

(continued from page 37)

trait to Mrs. Nystrom. She has demonstrated it for the last 16 years and it was evident over 20 years ago when she was again waiting for Bruce Nystrom. The two met in their 11th grade homeroom class. For the former Nancy Nichols, "the sky rockets went off and the whistles blew!" In six months, they were separated. Nancy's father was transferred to California. Bruce graduated from high school and entered the Navy. While Nancy waited in California, he traveled to Detroit, her hometown; New York, Ohio, Texas, and then Florida. He received his wings at NAS Jacksonville in Jacksonville, Fla., and was stationed at Alameda, Calif. There they were married. The two had been engaged 15 months. Between high school and marriage, they had been separated three years.

Being the wife of a career serviceman is "very good training for coping with life," believes Mrs. Nystrom. "Because you have to adjust constantly, you have to reevaluate constantly, you have to adapt constantly. And there is the ever-present possibility that one's husband, particularly if he is an attack pilot, may be shot out of the sky on a moonless winter night.

"Of course, I philosophize a lot,"

says Mrs. Nystrom. Her eyes are drawn to a poster-sized print of Capt. Bruce Nystrom. He is perched in the cockpit of a Douglas A-4. It was the last photograph Mrs. Nystrom received from him. On its reverse he had written: "My bad guy picture."

She continues: "I think when you've lived through something like this, that's what it boils down to; you weigh things and you evaluate—what the essence and meaning of life is. I haven't gotten any answers. It's been an evolutionary sort of thing. I guess just my philosophy for living, for being, is that no one knows how much time they have on earth.

"The good Lord gives you only as much as He knows you can bear and I say (laughing), 'Okay, dear Lord, enough, go pick on someone else. I believe. I believe.'"

She laughs good-naturedly. But the sound is brief. There is pain in her eyes, an unshed tear, a mourning that will not occur.

"Oh well," she murmurs. "C'est la vie. C'est la guerre." Such is life. Such is war.

With the acceptance of death, there is a freedom. Nancy Nystrom denies herself that freedom. She chooses to be an MIA-wife.

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Worthy Cause

(continued from page 46)

ciations, in addition to numerous targeted VFW veterans' programs.

The largest single contribution was the \$11,150 donated to the VA hospital in nearby San Diego, with substantial sums earmarked also for several other health care facilities.

Youth activities, particularly sports teams, scouting groups and area schools, reaped the benefit of the Post's generosity from contributions totaling over \$9,000.

Donations of nearly \$3,000 went to organizations directly aiding veterans.

The VFW State Service Officers Fund received \$1,700, with several others sharing in Post 2028's bounteous gifts.

The fight to combat debilitating and life-threatening diseases was promoted by the Post's donation of close to \$1,000 to foundations seeking cures to dread diseases.

In an effort to curb the increasing incidence of crime, members of Post 2028 voted contributions amounting to \$3,250 to the city's police department.

The needy in the community did not go wanting during the holidays, thanks to donations of \$1,300 for holiday food baskets to feed those less fortunate.

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GI Insurance Dividends To Be Paid

The 3.7 million veterans who have kept their GI life insurance policies in force will share in an annual dividend distribution that, for the year 1983, totals \$673.2 million.

Administrator of Veterans Affairs Harry N. Walters said the record high dividend was made possible because of lower than expected death rates among policyholders and improved interest earnings on the insurance funds' investments.

No application for the annual dividend is needed, Walters stressed. Each policyholder will receive the dividend in the month of the anniversary date of the individual policy. Payments will be made in the manner selected previously by the policyholder. Choices range from cash to the purchase of paid up insurance.

Government life insurance has been issued through various periods starting Jan. 1, 1919, through May 2, 1966, to veterans of World Wars I and II and the Korean Conflict.

The 73,300 holders of United States Government Life Insurance (USGLI with serial numbers prefixed by K) will receive, on the average, a dividend of \$257 out of a total distribution of \$18.8 million. These policies were issued mainly during WW I.

The 3,027,345, who kept their WW II National Service Life Insurance in force (NSLI prefixed with V) will receive an average \$122 dividend on Modified Life Plan policies, \$260 on other permanent plan policies and \$123 on term policies.

The newer Veterans Special Life Insurance (VSLI, prefixed with RS and W) will pay out a total of \$35.3 million to some 475,000 policy holders. The average payment to W term policyholders will be \$26, the RS term will receive \$69 and the W permanent plan, \$123.

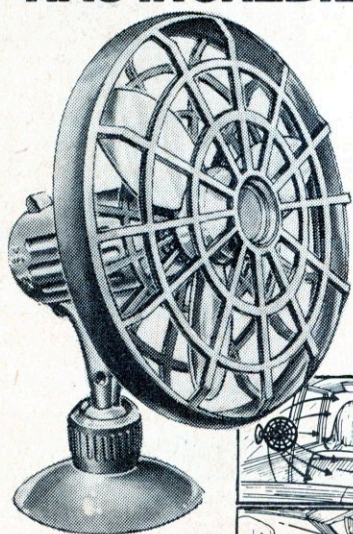
The Veterans Reopened Insurance (VRI) program will pay \$15.8 million to the 156,000 holders of J, JR and JS policies with J policyholders receiving about \$85, JR \$207, and JS \$390.

Walters noted that dividends for individuals covered under each program will differ according to age, plan selected and length of time the policy has been in force.

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President Reagan presents the Presidential Citizens Medal to Raymond Weeks, founder of Veterans Day. — Inset, Commander-in-Chief James R. Currie speaks at the National Veterans Day banquet in Birmingham, Ala.

Weeks Honored by Reagan

Because he cared, Raymond Weeks has received the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Ronald Reagan in White House ceremonies.

Weeks, a member of Post 668 in Birmingham, Ala., for the past 33 years, was founder of the National Veterans Day program in Birmingham in 1947.

In making the presentation, President Reagan said:

"For more than 50 years, Mr. Weeks has exemplified the finest traditions of American voluntarism by his unselfish service to his country. As director of the National Veterans Day Celebration in Birmingham for the past 36 years, Raymond Weeks, a World War II veter-

an himself, has devoted his life to serving others, his community, the American veteran and his nation.

"He was the driving force behind the Congressional action which in 1954 established this special holiday as a day to honor all American veterans."

After making the award, President Reagan recalled that President Calvin Coolidge said, "The nation which forgets its defenders will be itself forgotten."

Citing the dedication of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, President Reagan said mistakes were made during the Vietnam War, but added that the Communist oppression in Vietnam now "suggests that the

cause for which our Vietnam veterans fought was an honorable one."

What had been Armistice Day, observed each Nov. 11 to remember the end of World War I, was changed officially by Congress to Veterans Day in 1954.

At this year's Veterans Day ceremonies in Birmingham, VFW Commander-in-Chief James R. Currie was the principal banquet speaker.

He urged his listeners to aid unemployed veterans, support action to assist Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange or suffering from delayed stress syndrome, fight to preserve the VA medical system and support a strong national defense.



Teed Off

My dentist said he couldn't see me today. He said he had 18 cavities to fill. Later I saw him on the golf course.

—Shelby Friedman



Remember That Big Picnic?

"Billy," asked the Sunday school teacher, "what is your favorite parable?"

Billy said, "I sort of like the one about the fellow who loafs and fishes."

—Quote

From the Maws of Babes

Kids are the answer to all our national problems. Four-year-olds have all the questions and 18-year-olds have all the answers.

—Tom Haggai



Basic Training

Coaches from two teams were evaluating new prospects after a spring training game in Florida.

"We had three rookies on base in one inning," one coach said.

"Then why are you so glum?" the other asked.

"It was the same base."

—Quote



Yoke It Up

A mother recently visited the office of a psychiatrist and explained that her daughter thought she was a chicken for over two years.

"Two years!" the incredulous doctor exclaimed. "Why did you wait so long before bringing her in?"

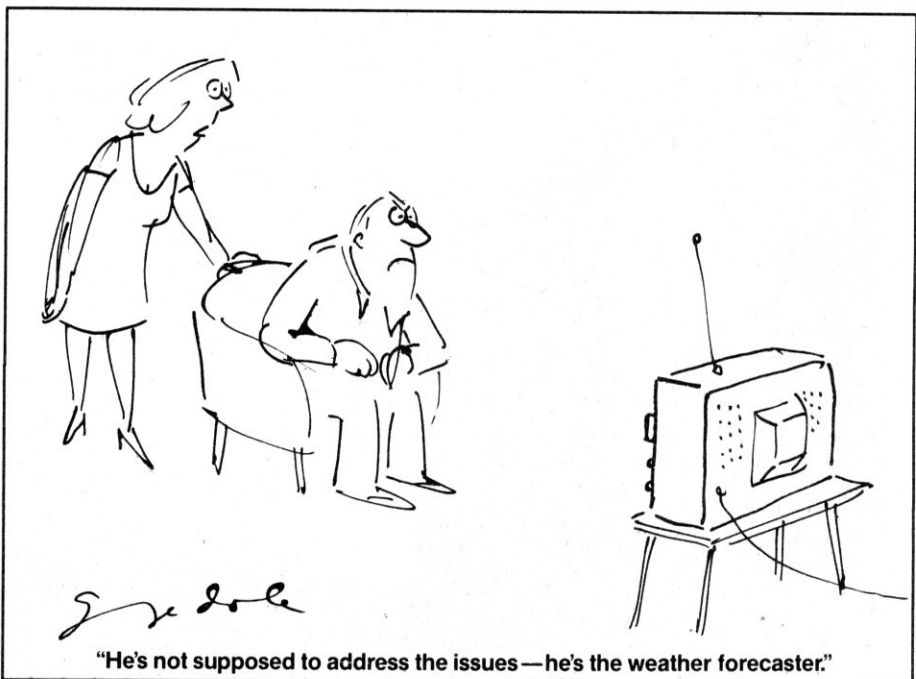
The woman looked embarrassed, then confessed: "We needed the eggs."

—Quote

A Tight Situation

If you think old soldiers just fade away, just try to get into your old uniform.

—Jackie Gleason



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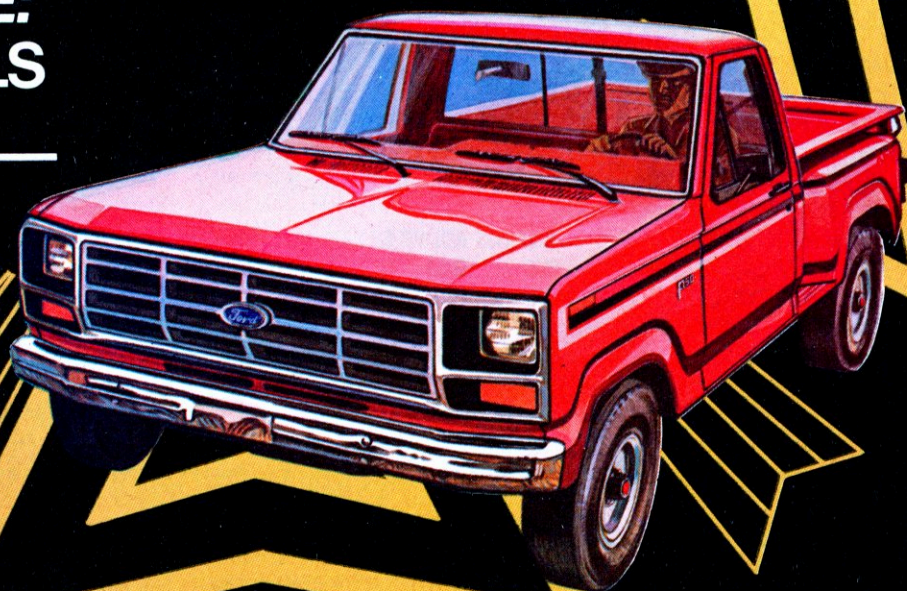


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